

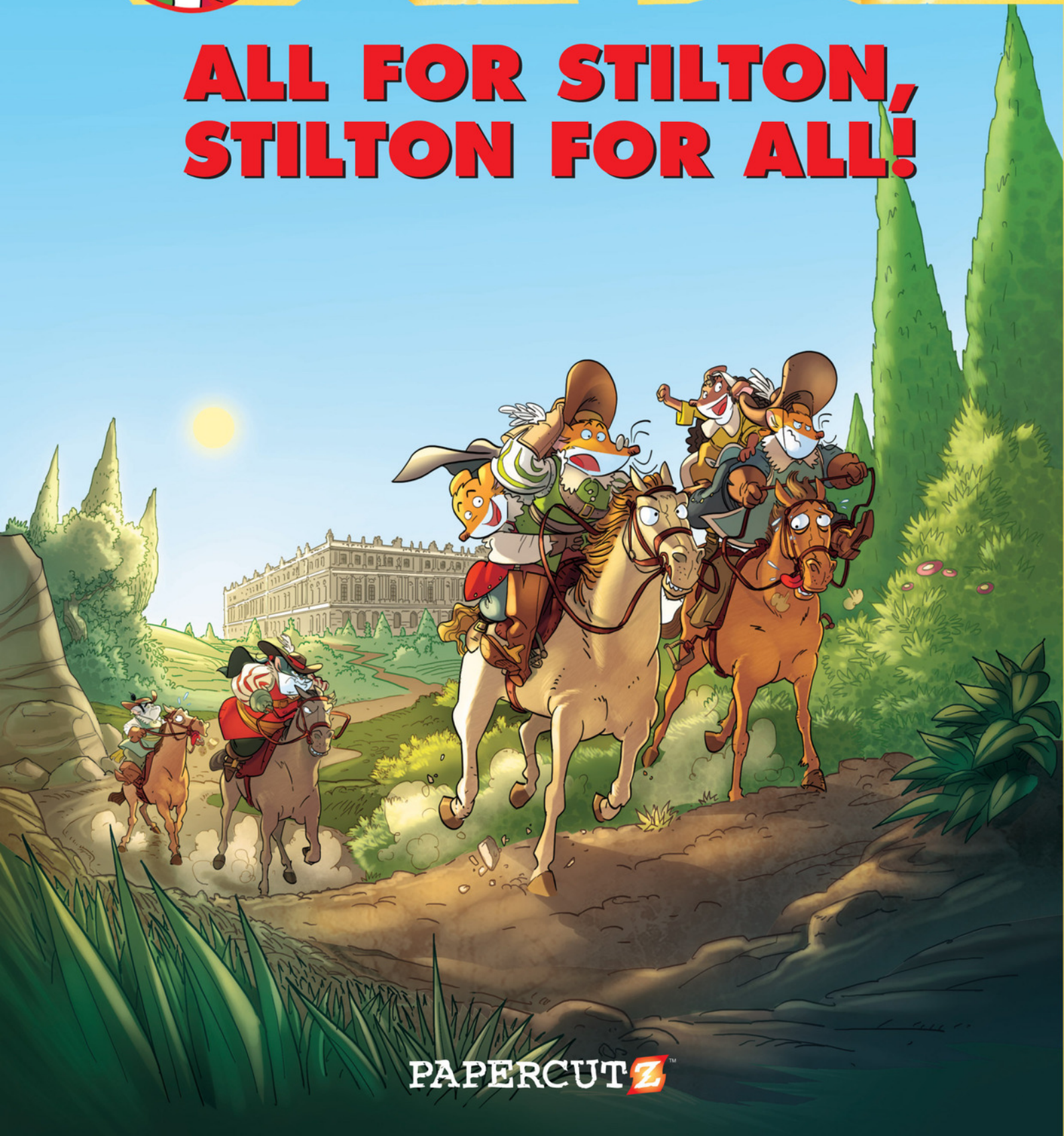


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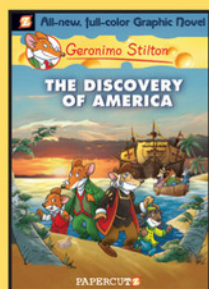
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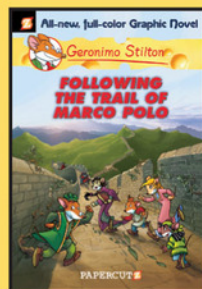
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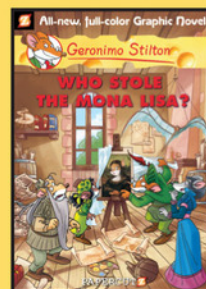
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#4 "Following the Trail of Marco Polo"



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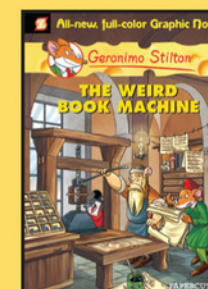
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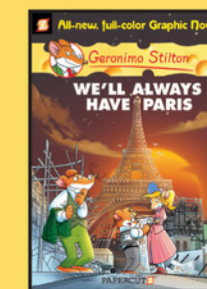
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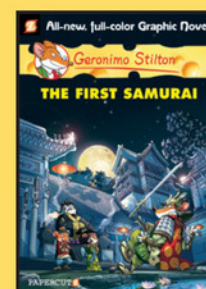
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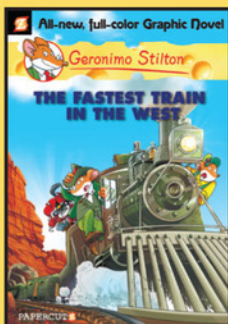
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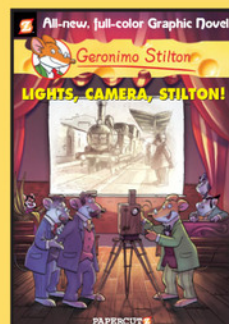
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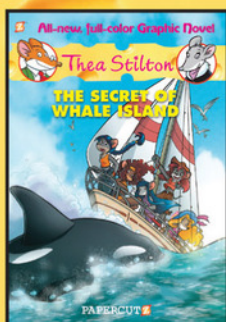
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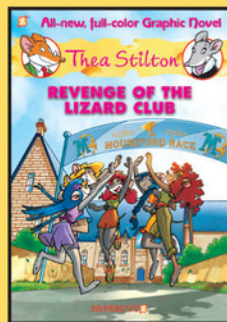
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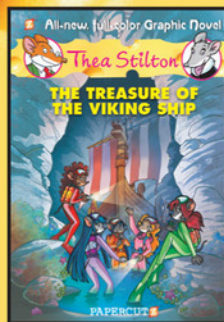
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Geronimo Stilton

ALL FOR STILTON, STILTON FOR ALL!

By Geronimo Stilton



ALL FOR STILTON, STILTON FOR ALL!

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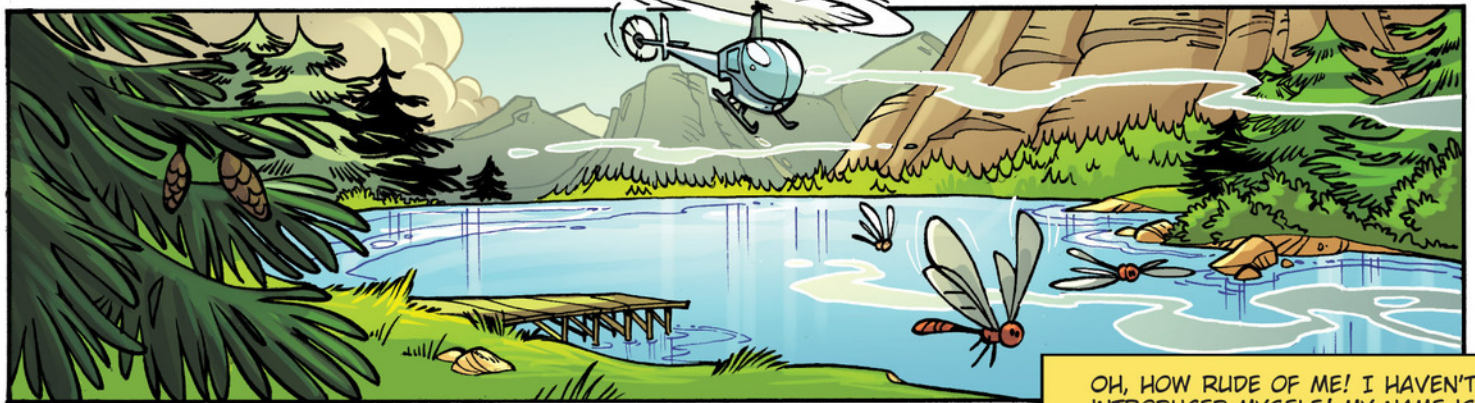
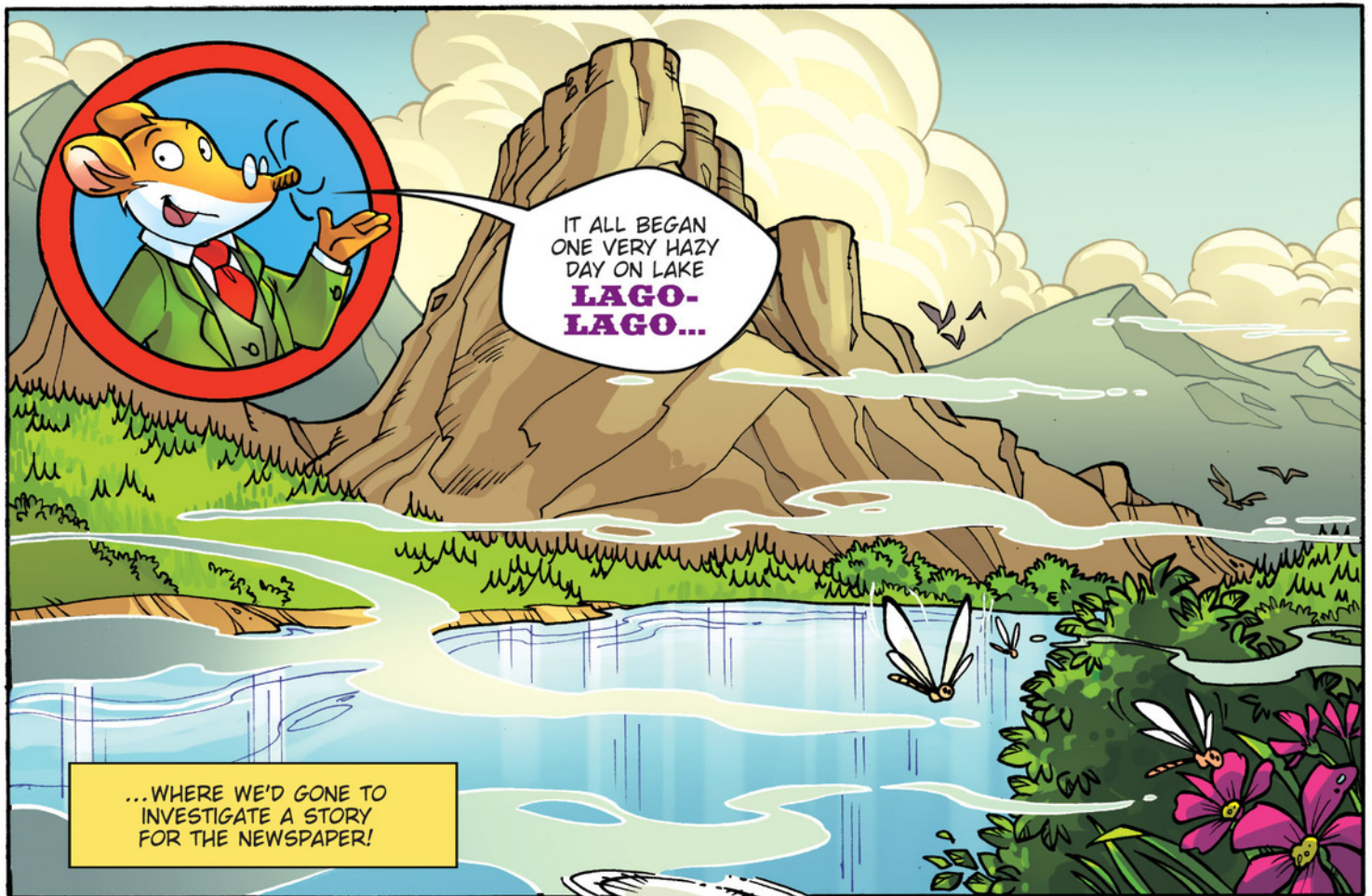
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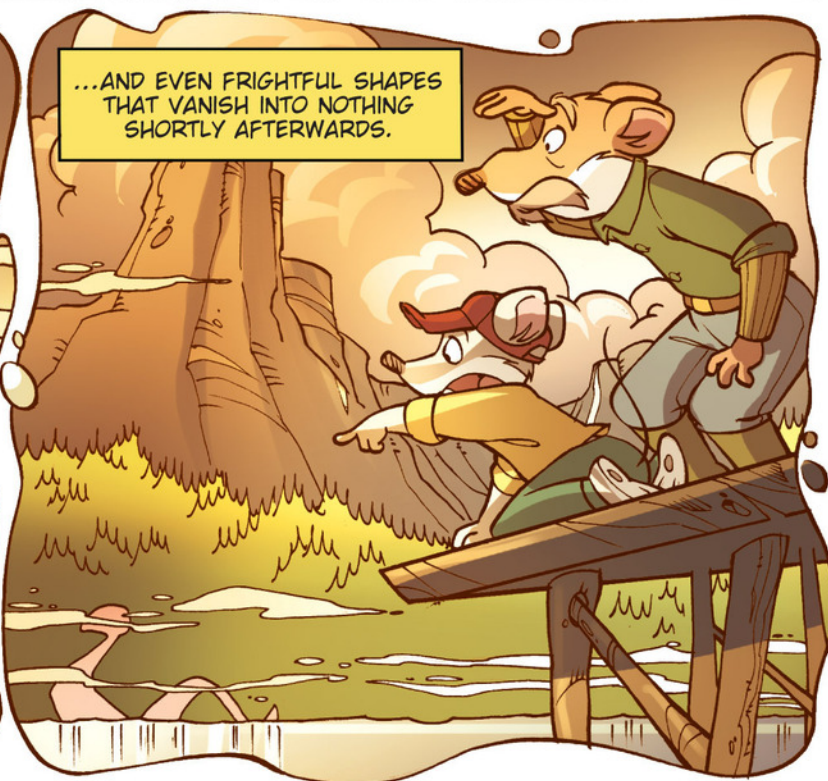
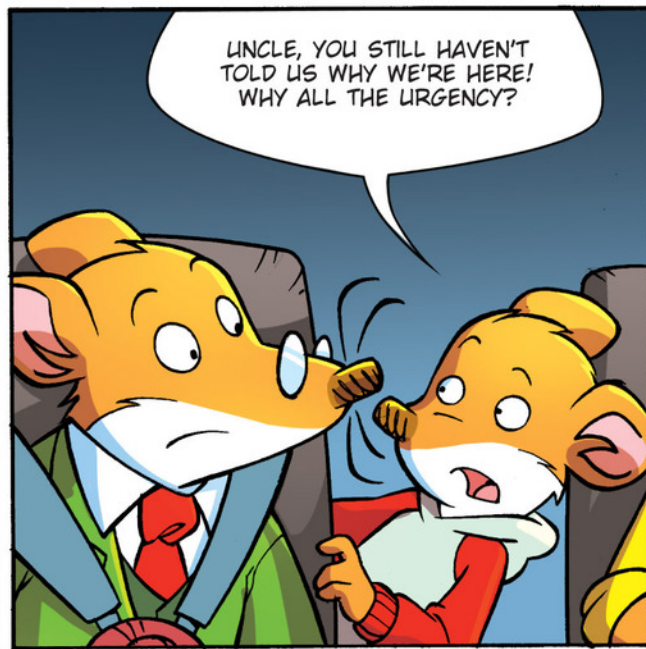
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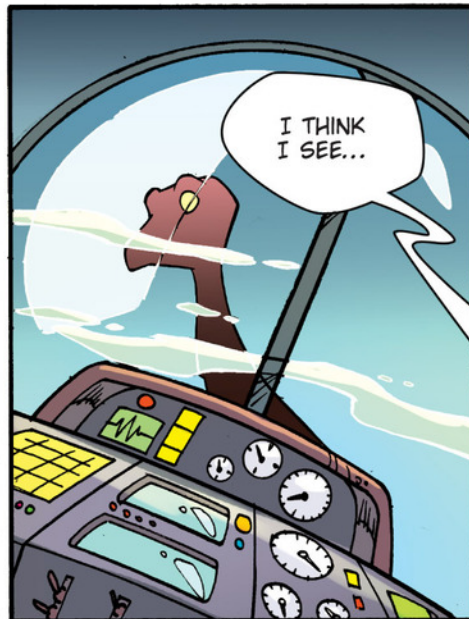
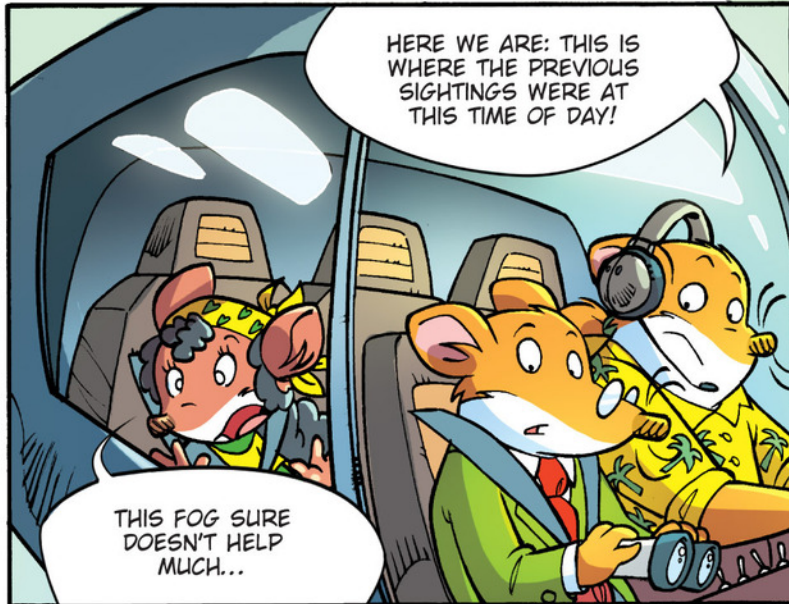
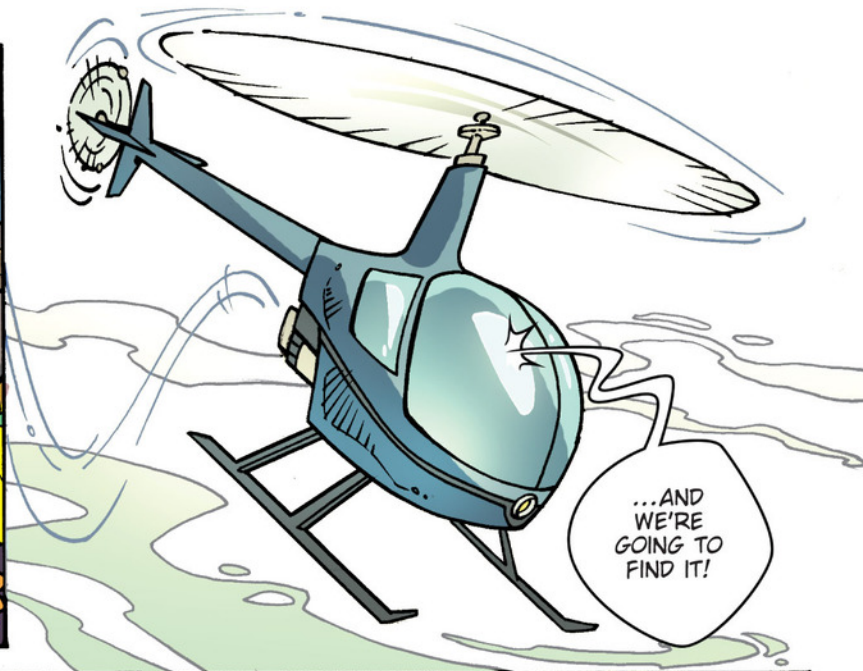
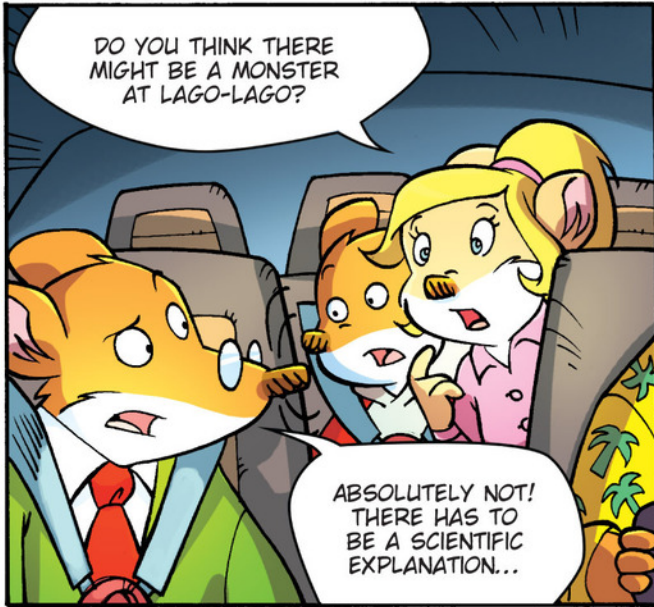
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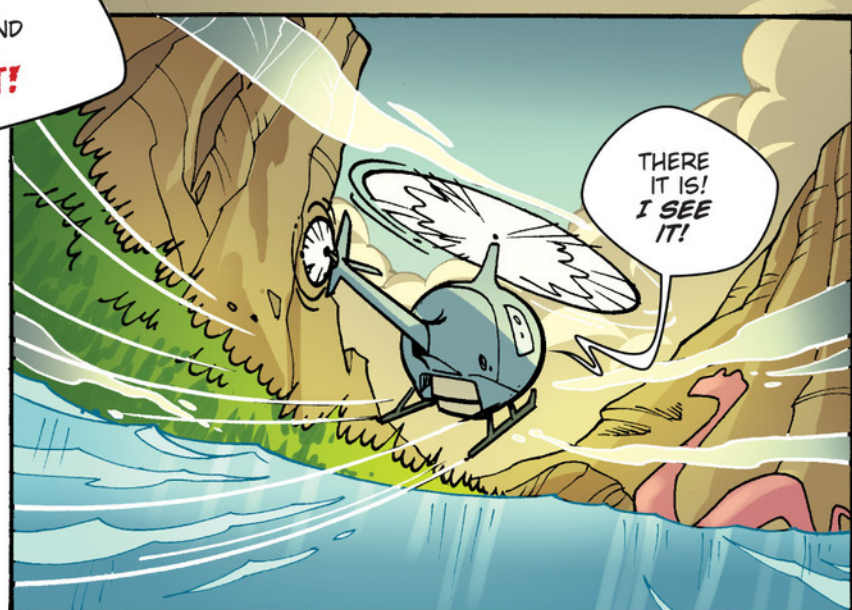
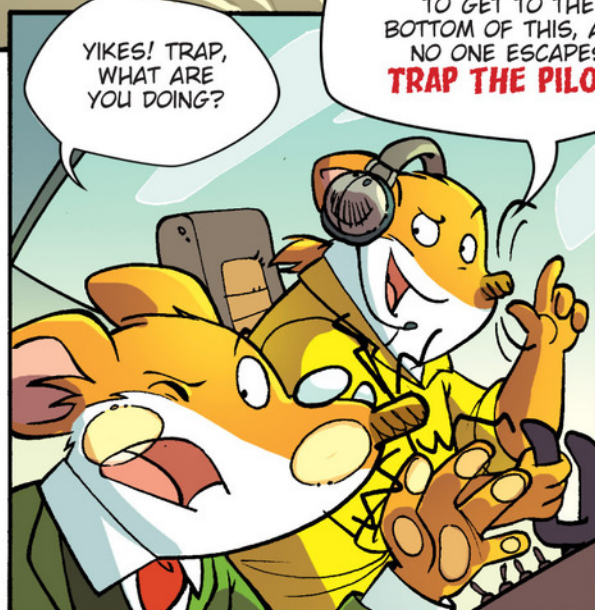
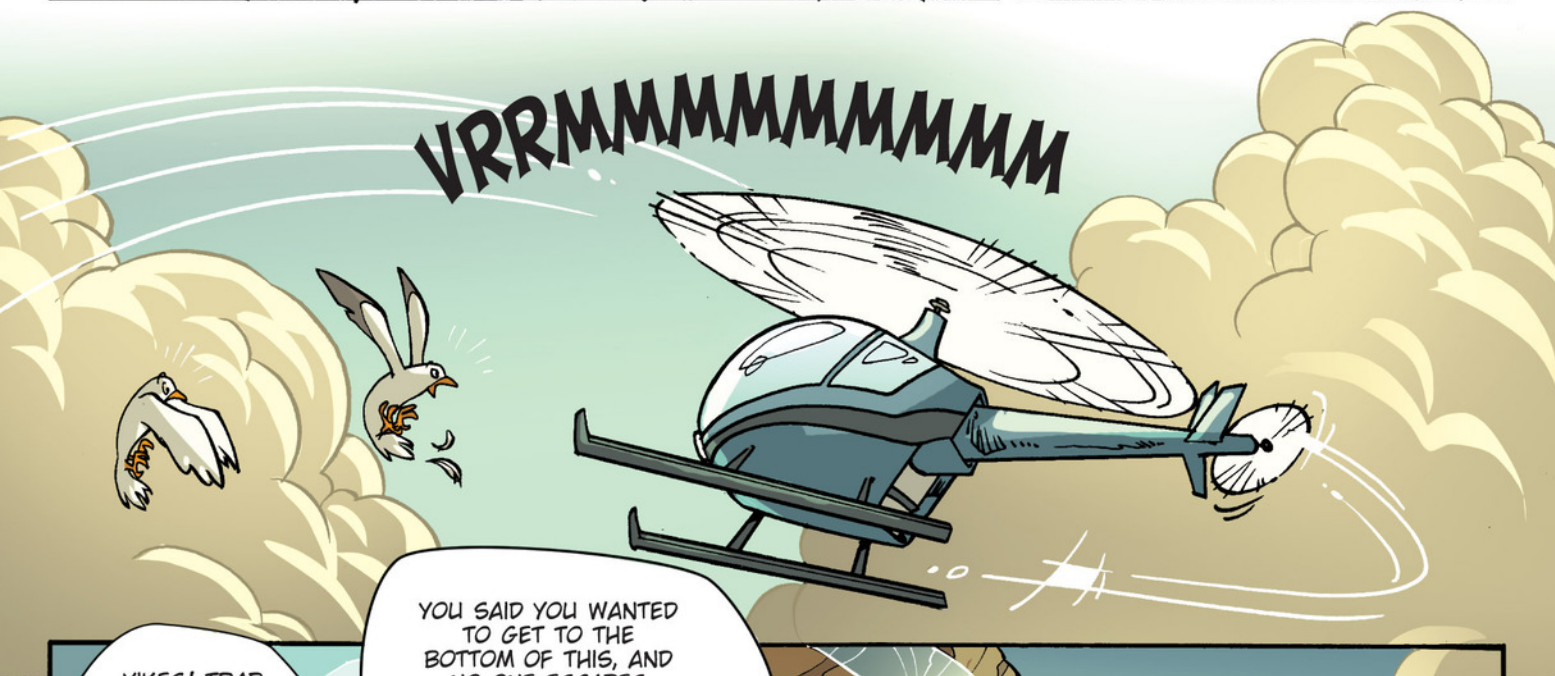
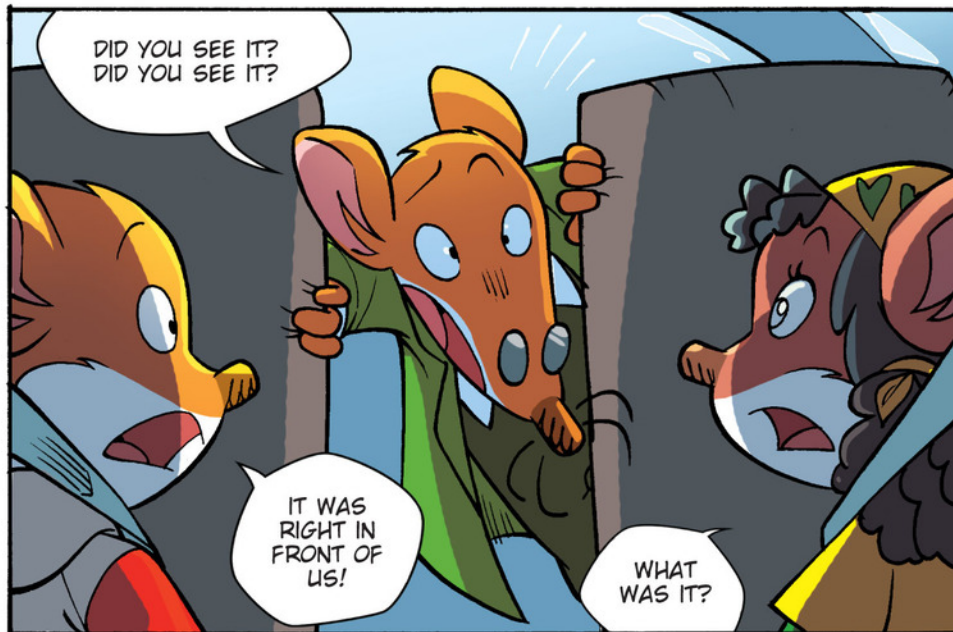
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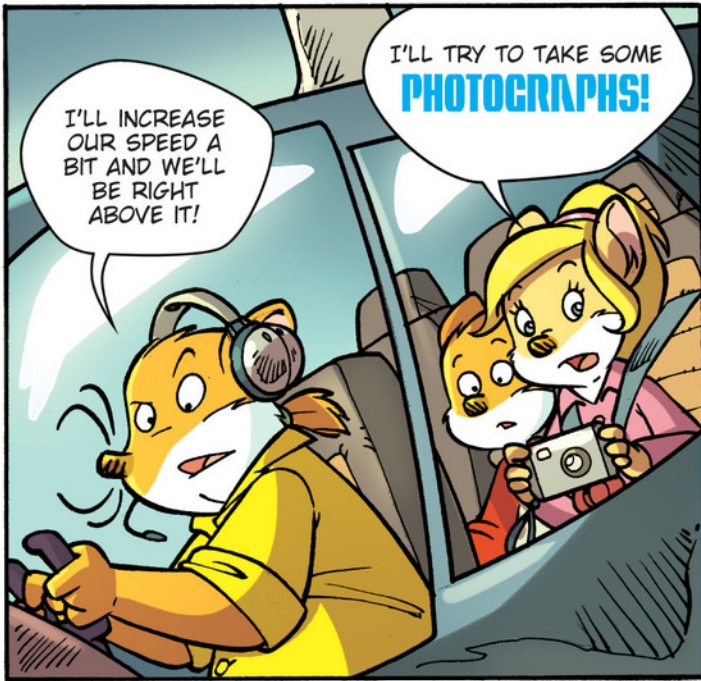
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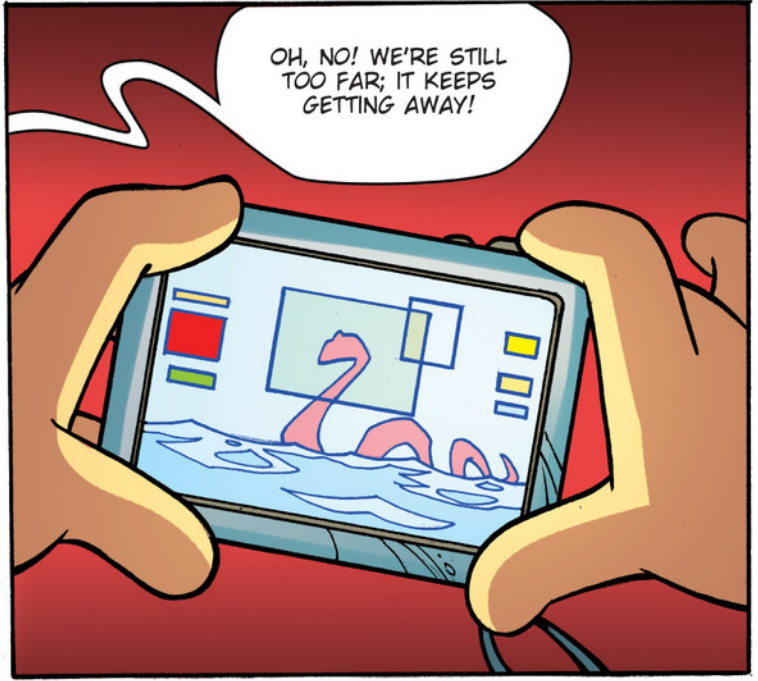






I'LL INCREASE OUR SPEED A BIT AND WE'LL BE RIGHT ABOVE IT!

I'LL TRY TO TAKE SOME **PHOTOGRAPHS!**

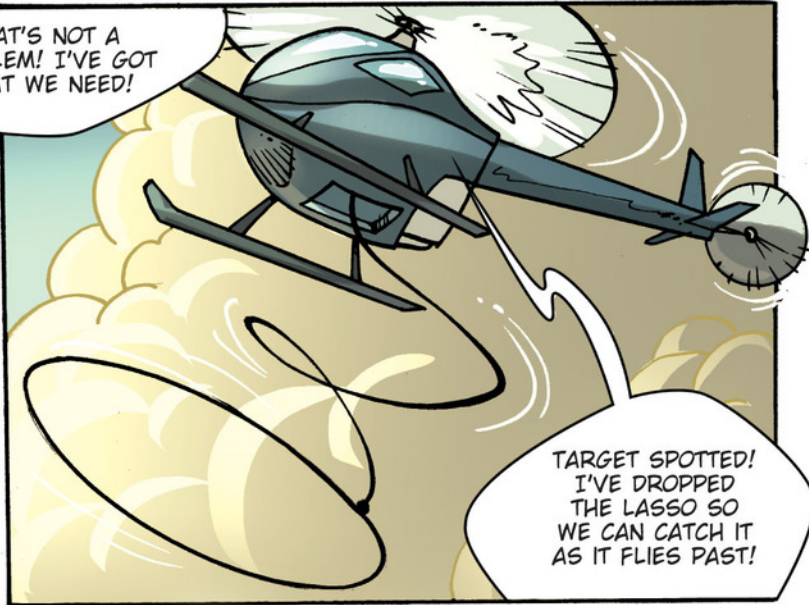


OH, NO! WE'RE STILL TOO FAR; IT KEEPS GETTING AWAY!



TRAP, WHAT'S THAT BUTTON?

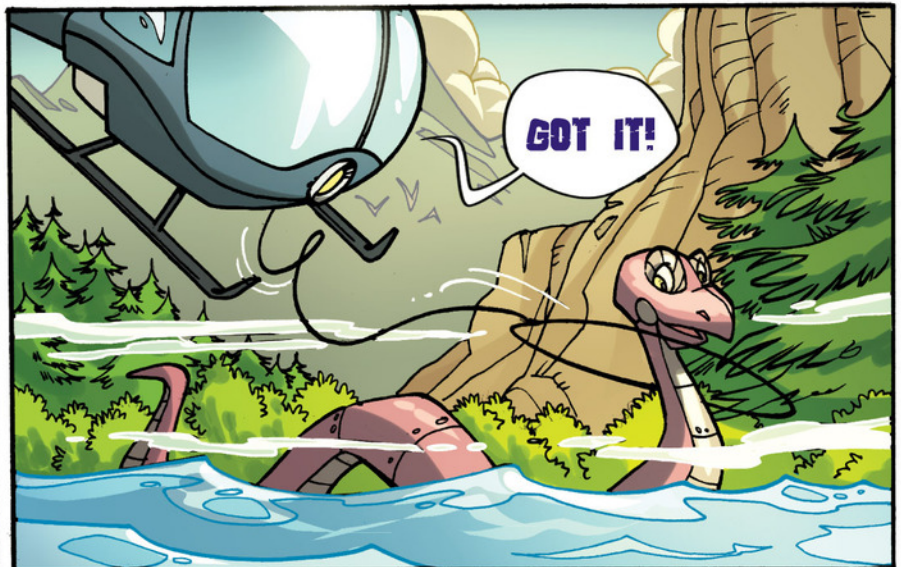
THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM! I'VE GOT WHAT WE NEED!



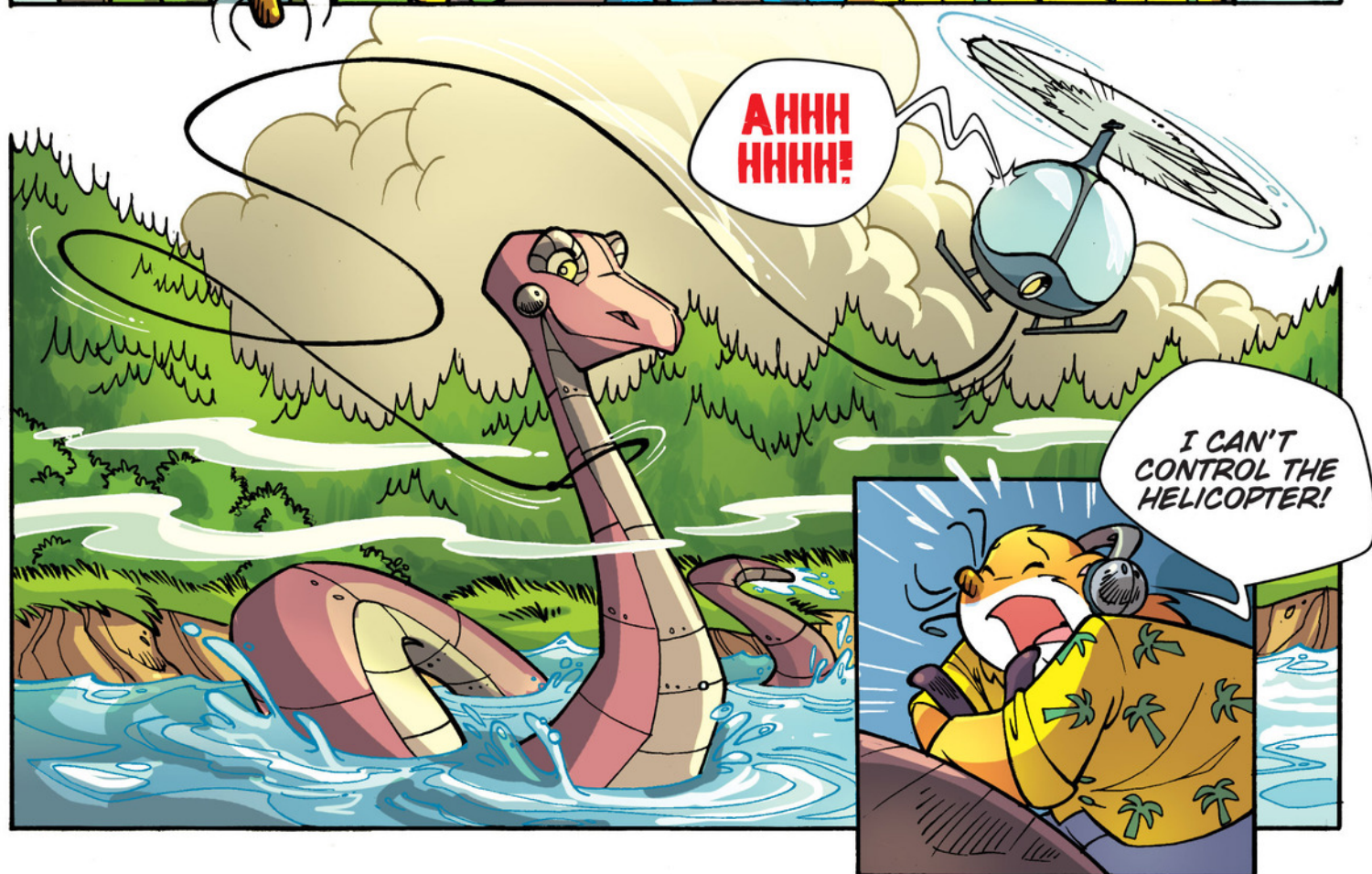
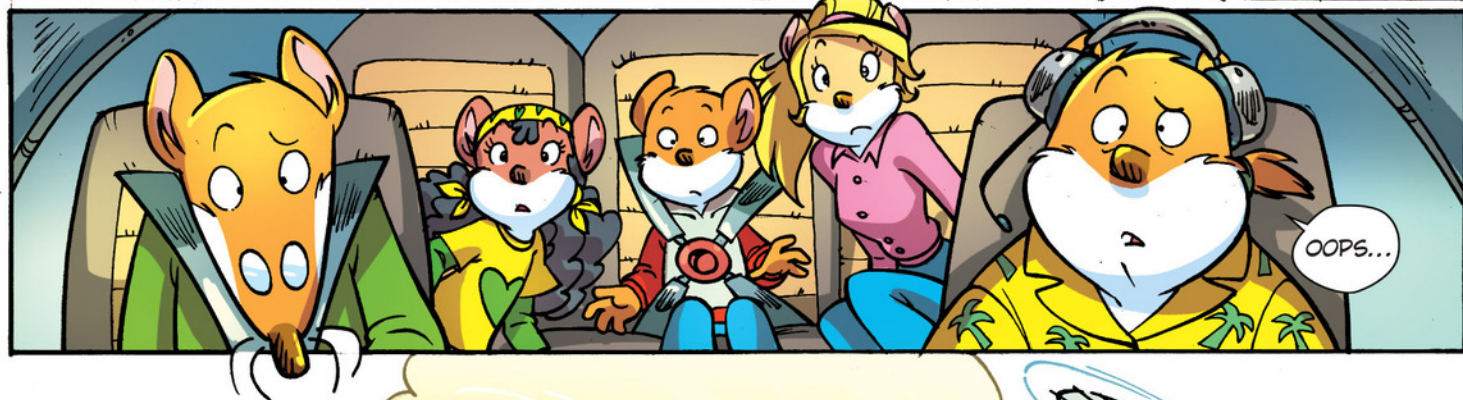
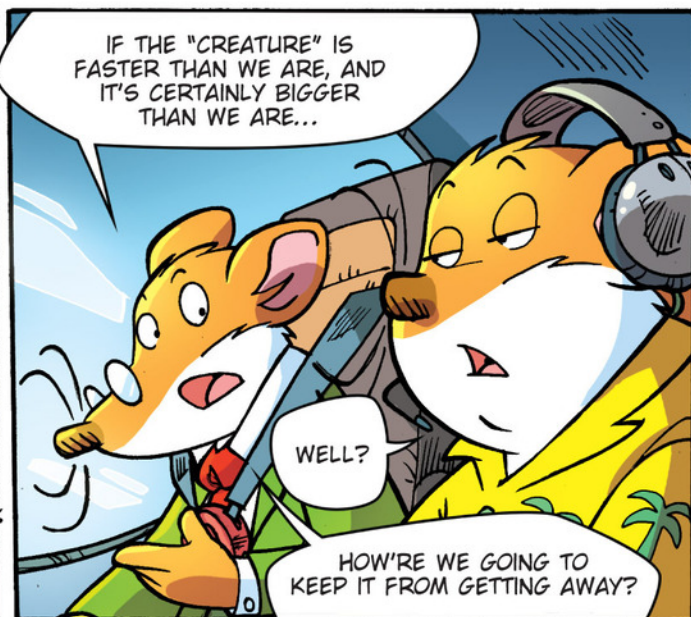
TARGET SPOTTED! I'VE DROPPED THE LASSO SO WE CAN CATCH IT AS IT FLIES PAST!

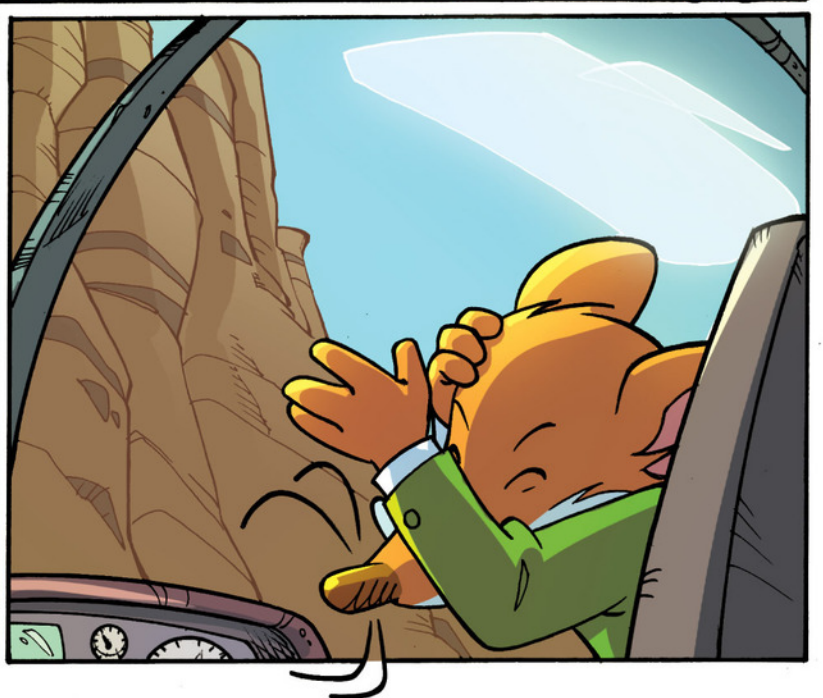
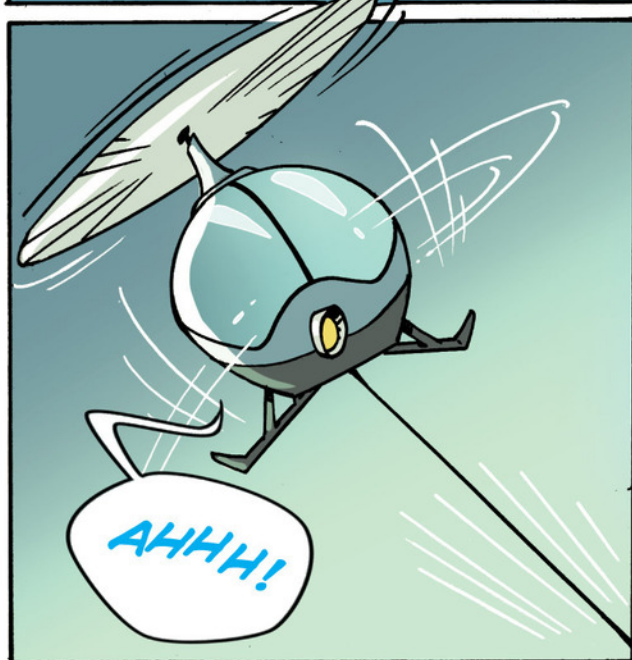


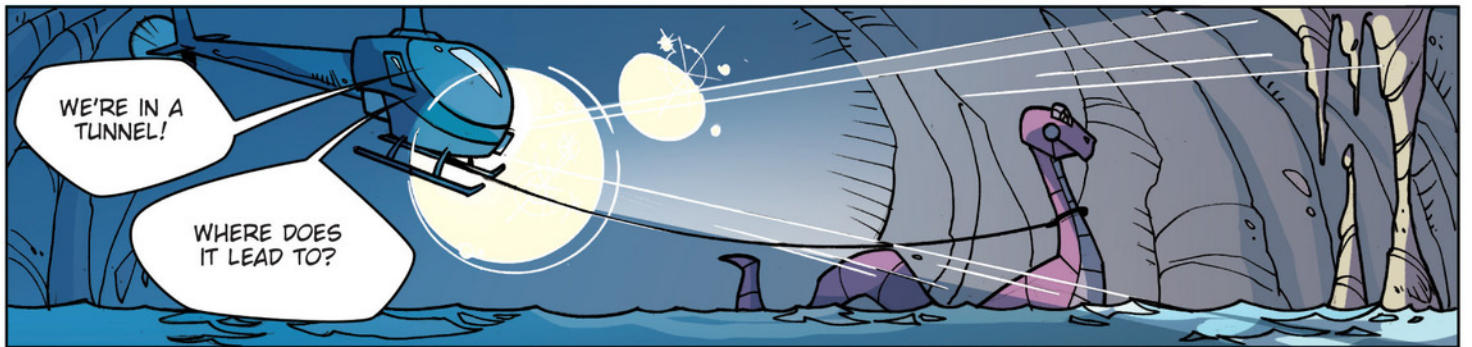
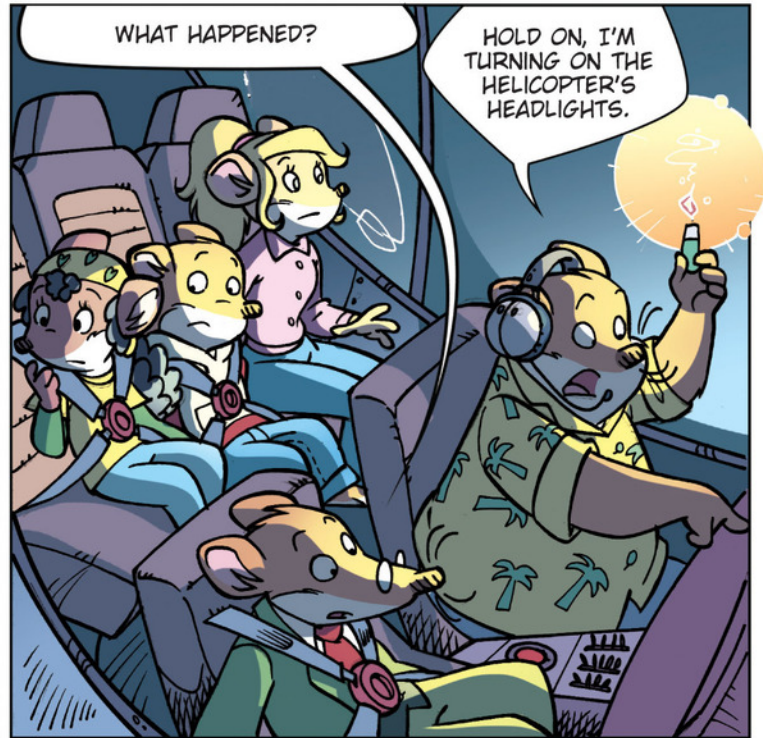
COME ON, WE ALMOST...

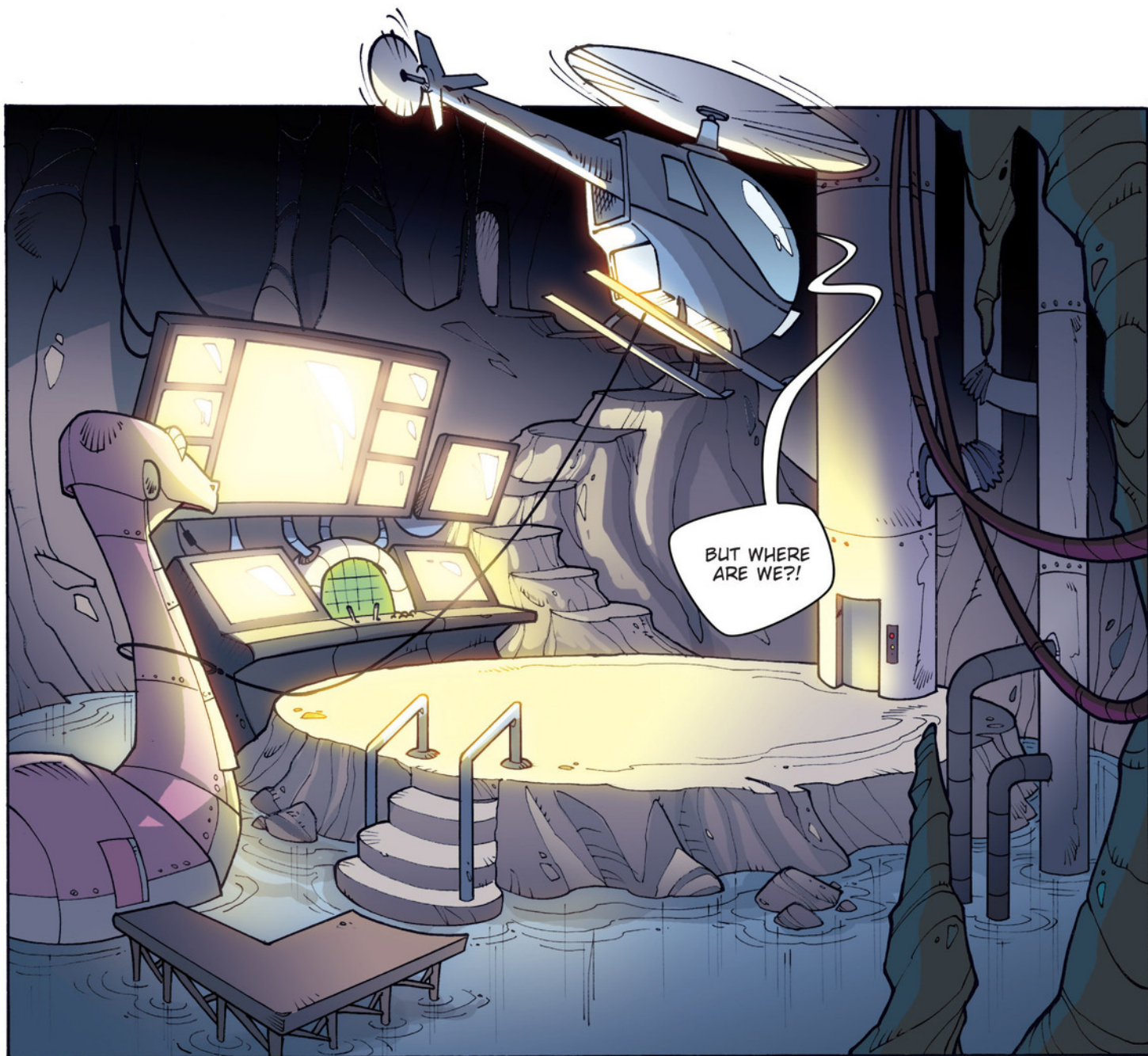


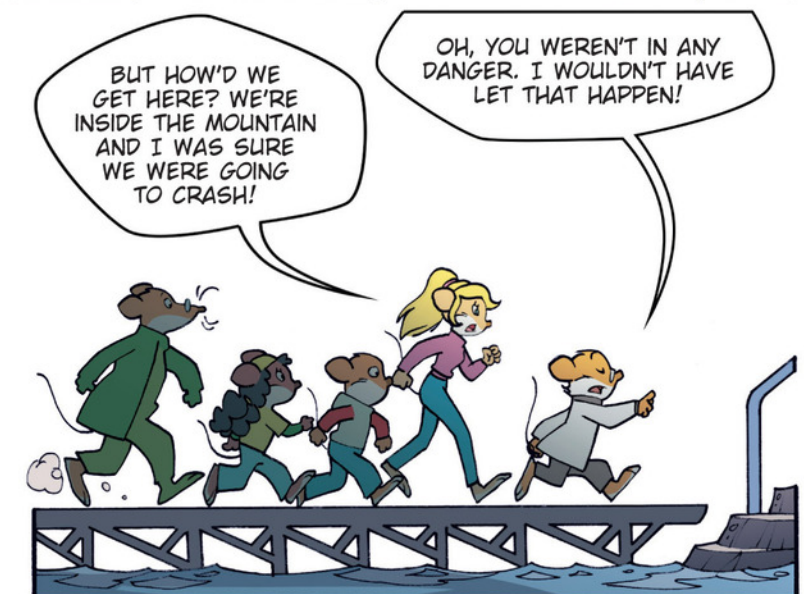
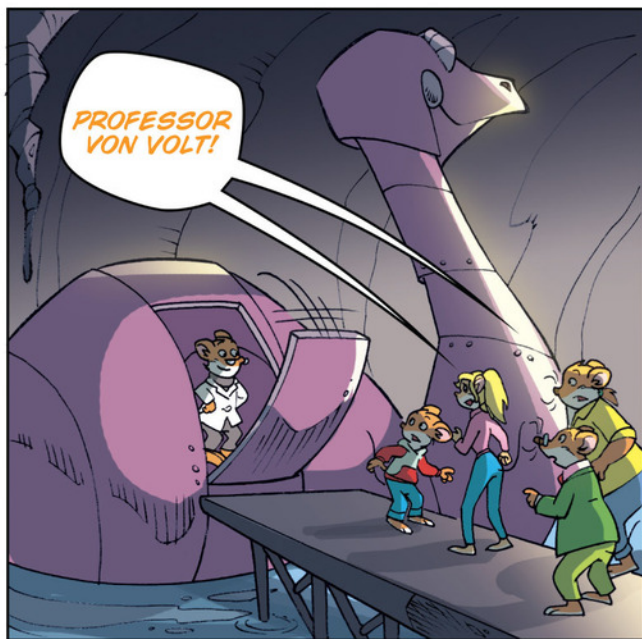
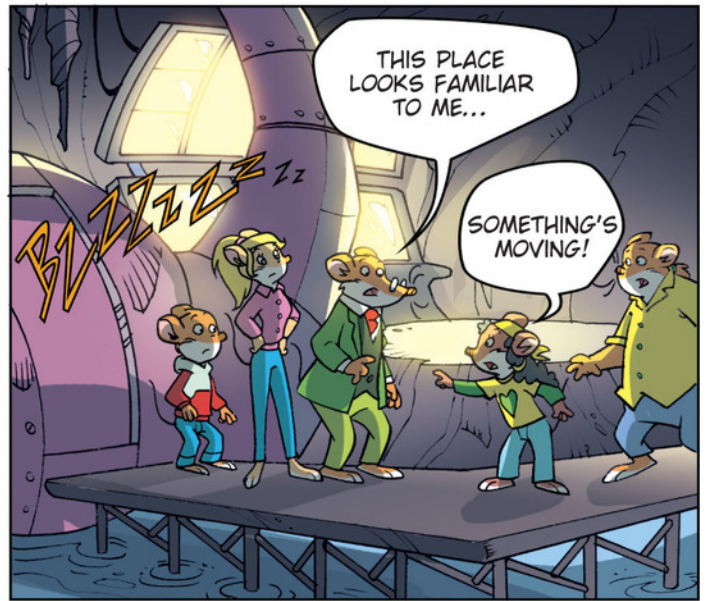
GOT IT!

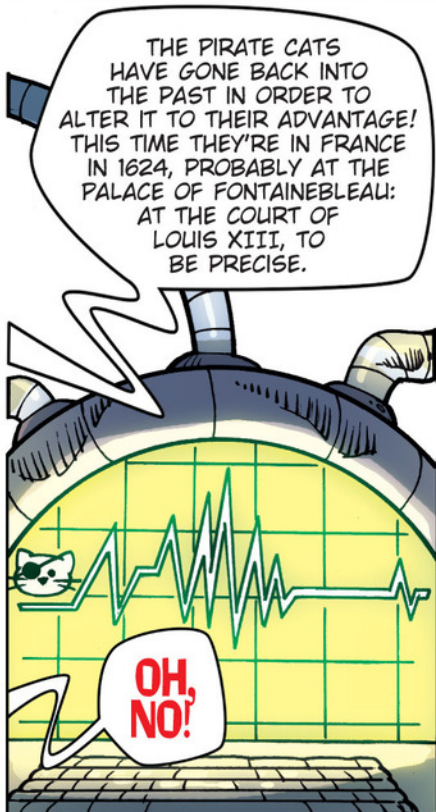
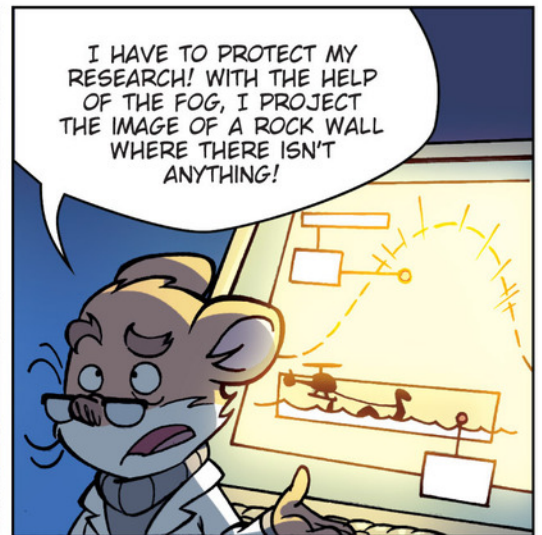
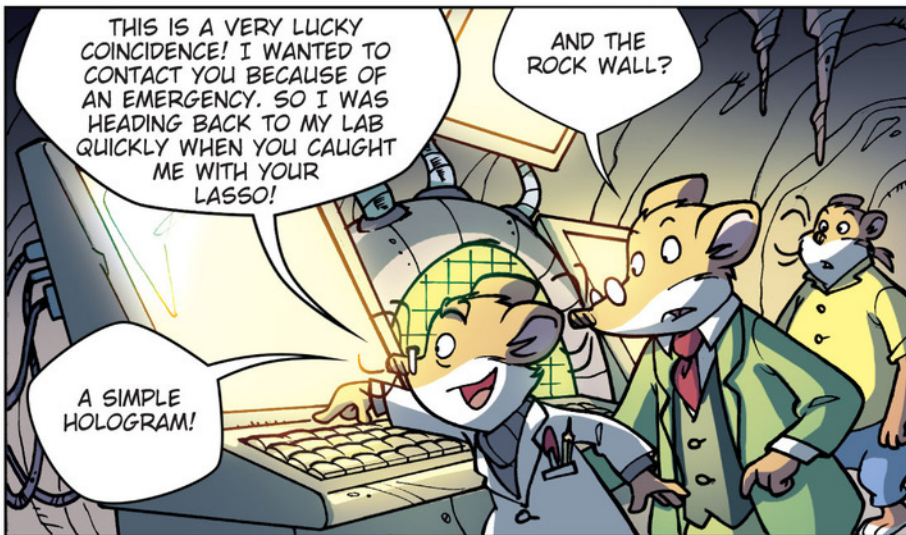




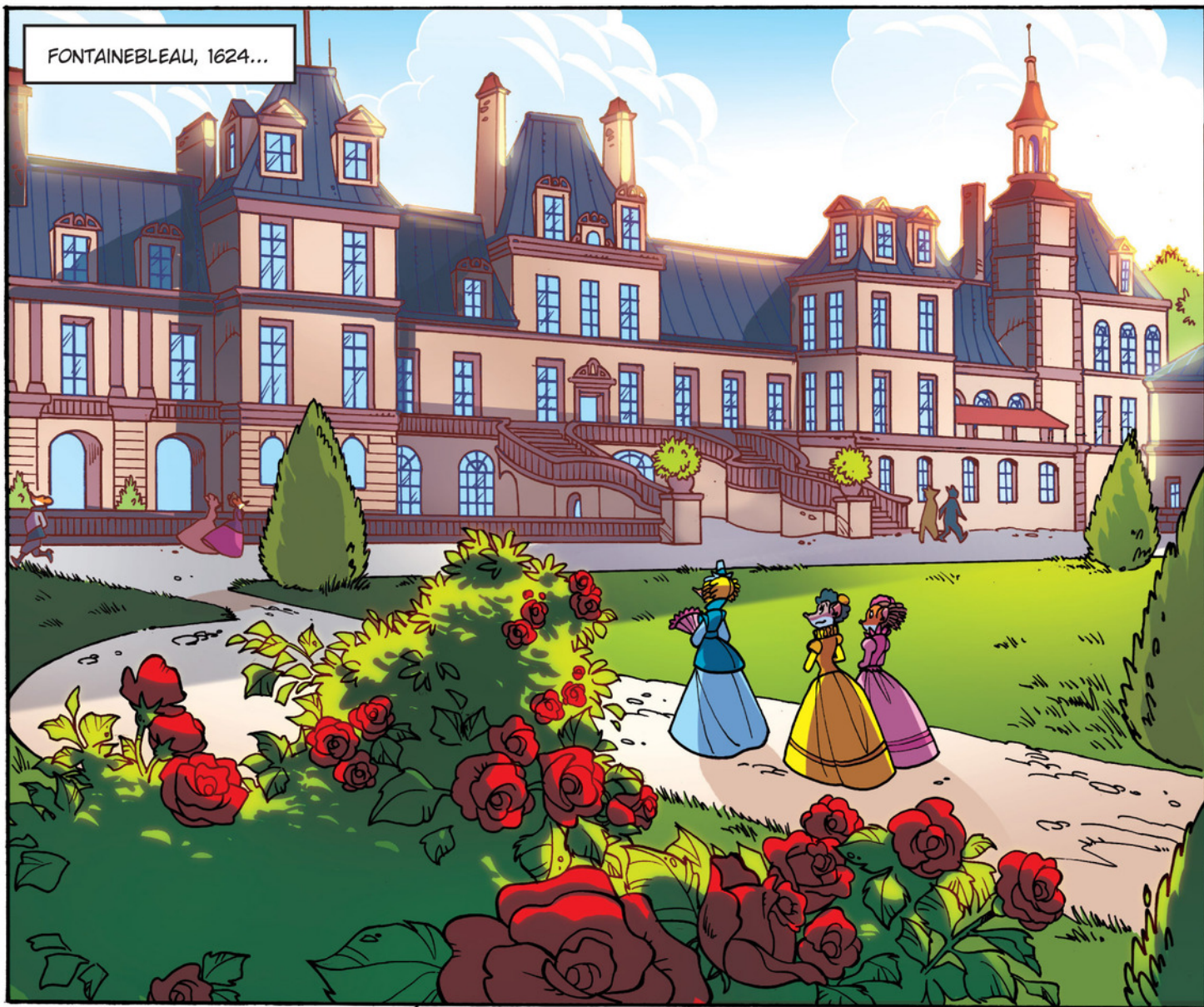








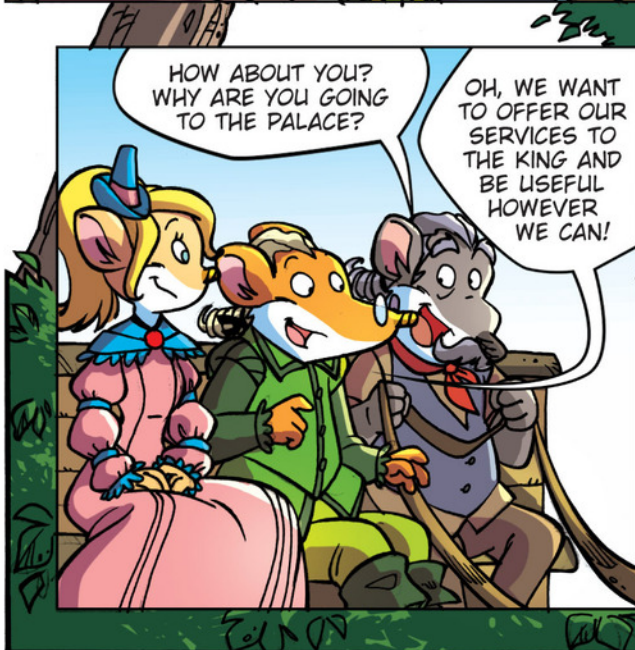
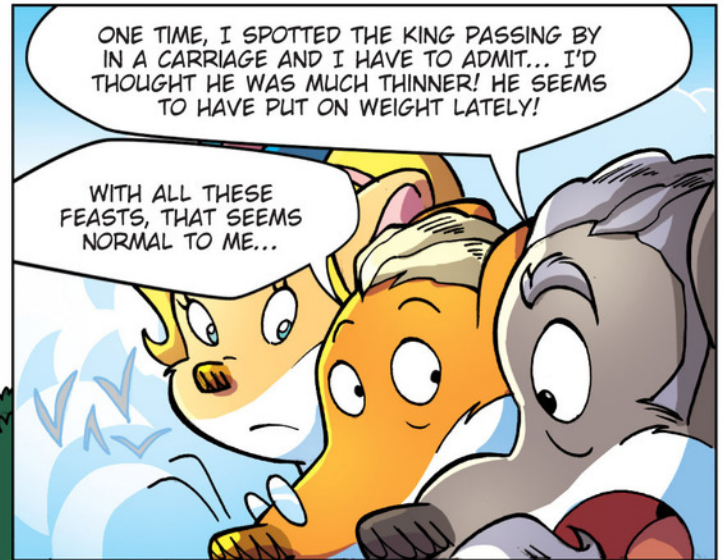
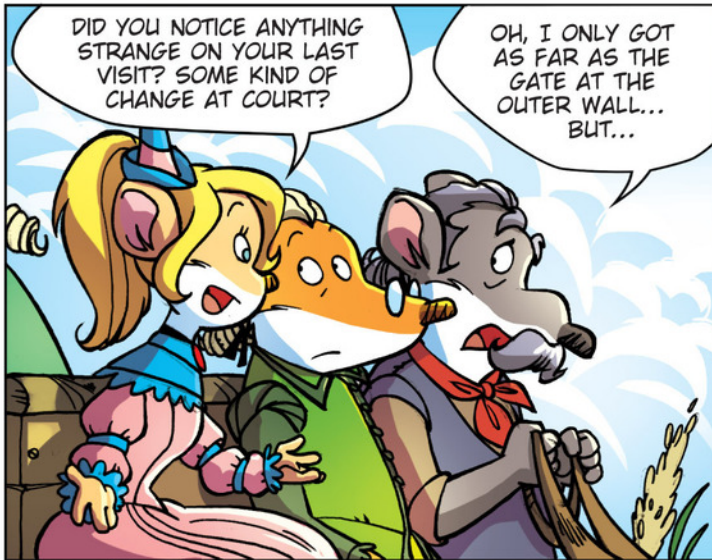
FONTAINEBLEAU, 1624...

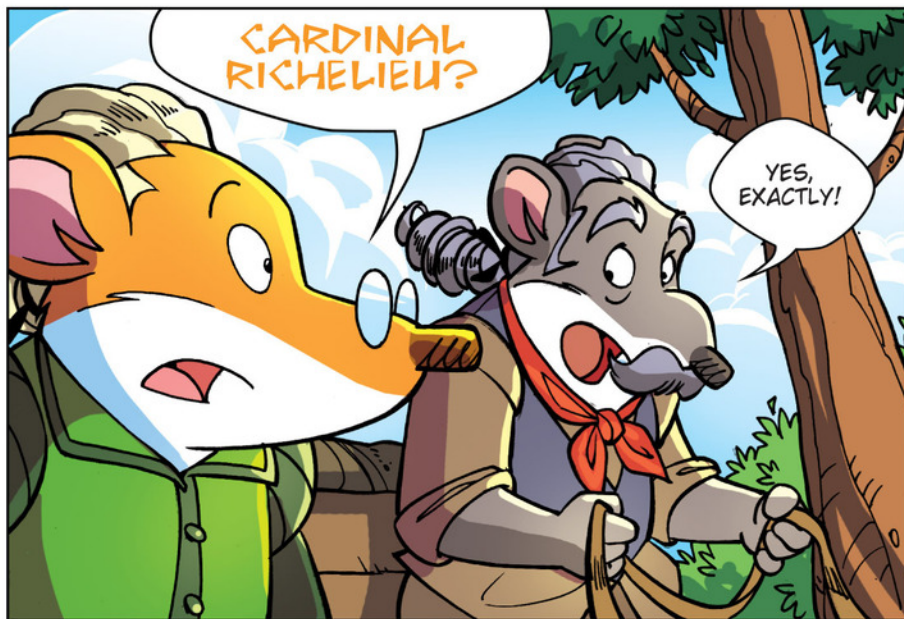


THE PALACE OF FONTAINEBLEAU IS A CASTLE LOCATED IN THE SMALL TOWN OF THE SAME NAME-- AS OPPOSED TO THE OTHER FAMOUS FRENCH CASTLE, VERSAILLES. MANY FRENCH MONARCHS CONTRIBUTED TO THE CASTLE, STARTING WITH KING LOUIS VII IN THE 12TH CENTURY. DURING THE RENAISSANCE IT WAS REBUILT BY FRANCIS I. IT FELL OUT OF USE DURING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION, BUT WAS BROUGHT BACK BY NAPOLEON. THE CASTLE IS NOW A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE AND HOUSES A SCHOOL OF ART, ARCHITECTURE, AND MUSIC.

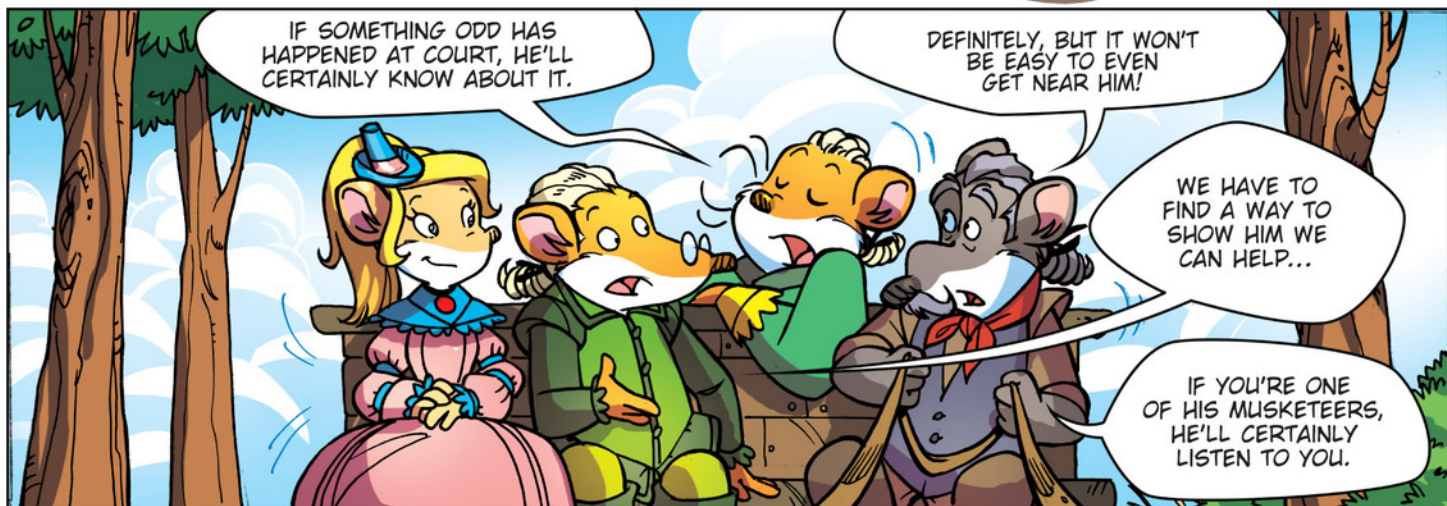
AFTER HIDING THE **SPEEDRAT**, WE GOT A LIFT FROM A KIND FARMER.



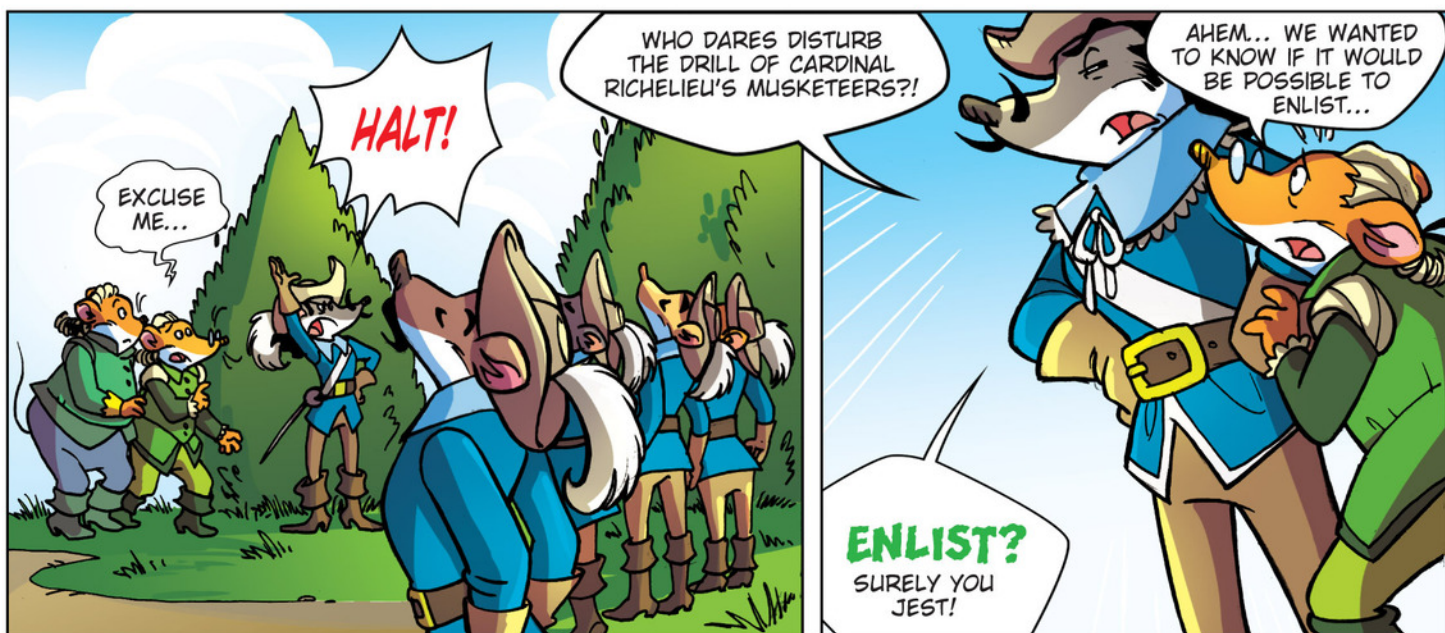
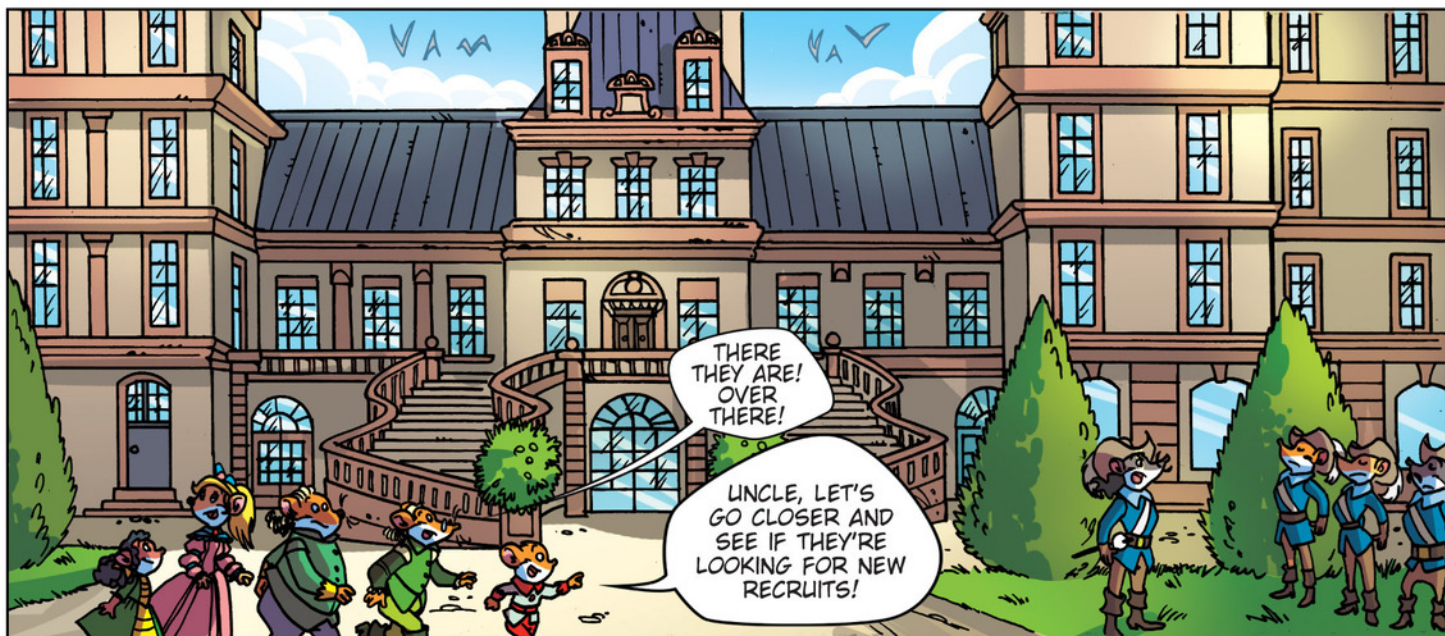
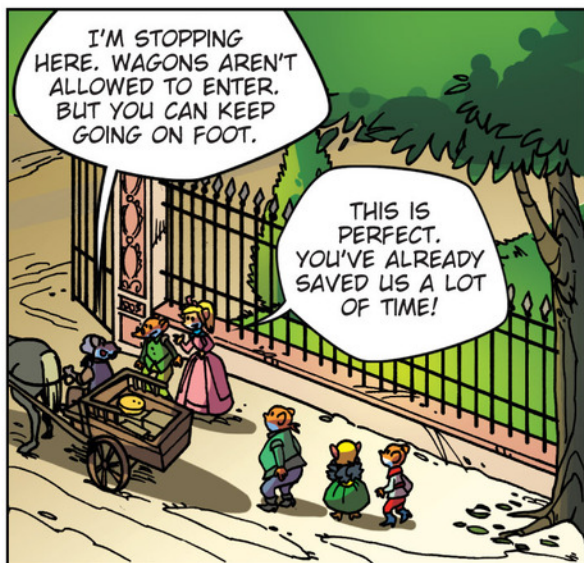


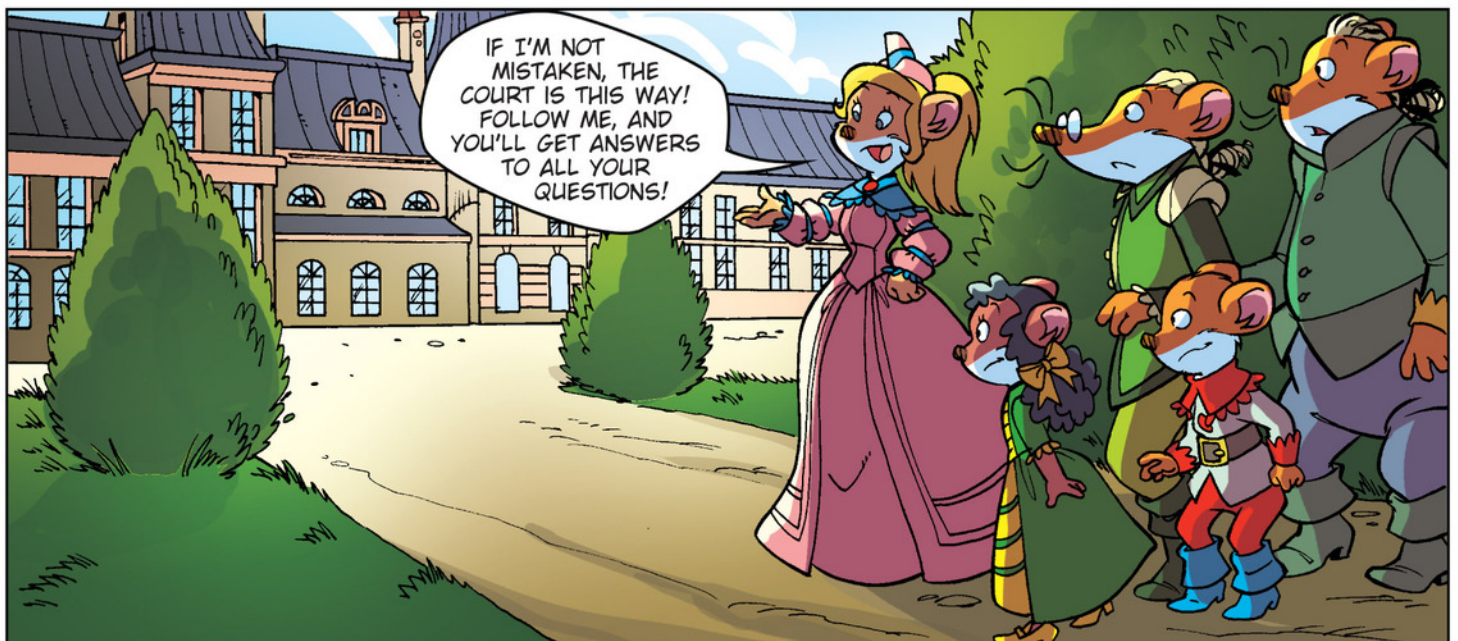
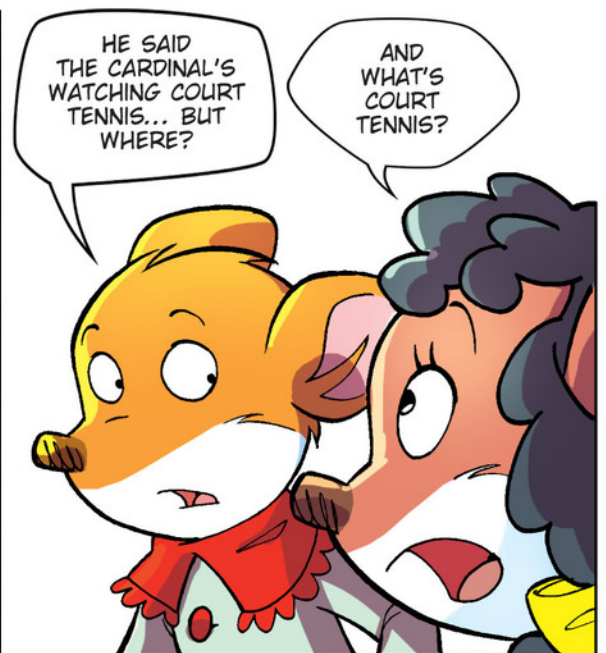


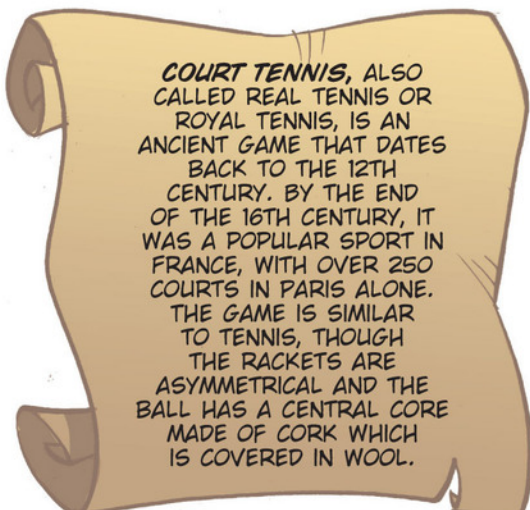
ARMAND-JEAN DU PLESSIS, CARDINAL OF RICHELIEU, WAS A CARDINAL, A DUKE, AND A FRENCH POLITICIAN. NAMED CHIEF MINISTER BY LOUIS XIII, HE WAS AN EXPERT IN THE FIELD OF POLITICS AND SPENT HIS CAREER STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE KING AND OF FRANCE IN EUROPE.



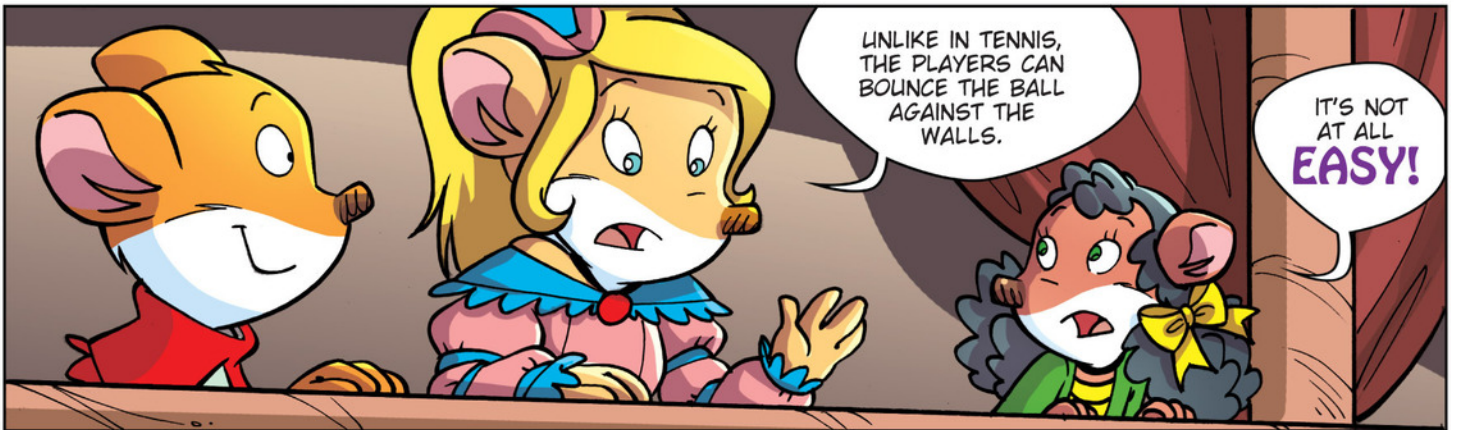
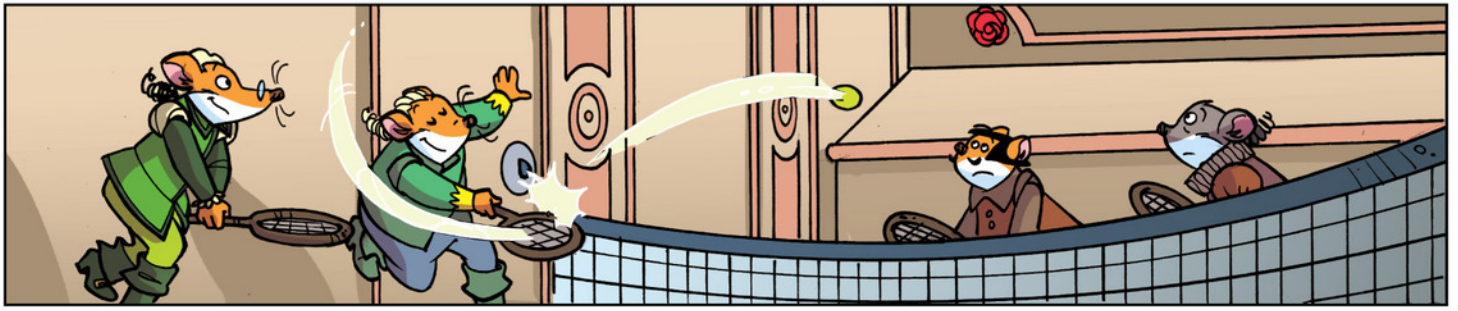
MUSKETEERS WERE A TYPE OF SOLDIER FOUND IN MANY ARMIES THROUGHOUT HISTORY. NAMED AFTER THE MUSKETS THEY USED AS WEAPONS, THESE SOLDIERS SOMETIMES CAME FROM FAMILIES WHO WERE PART OF THE LOWER NOBILITY IN FRANCE. RICHELIEU NAMED HIS PERSONAL GUARD OF MUSKET-WIELDING SOLDIERS "MUSKETEERS" AS NOT TO COMPETE WITH THE KING, WHO HAD HIS OWN ROYAL GUARD.

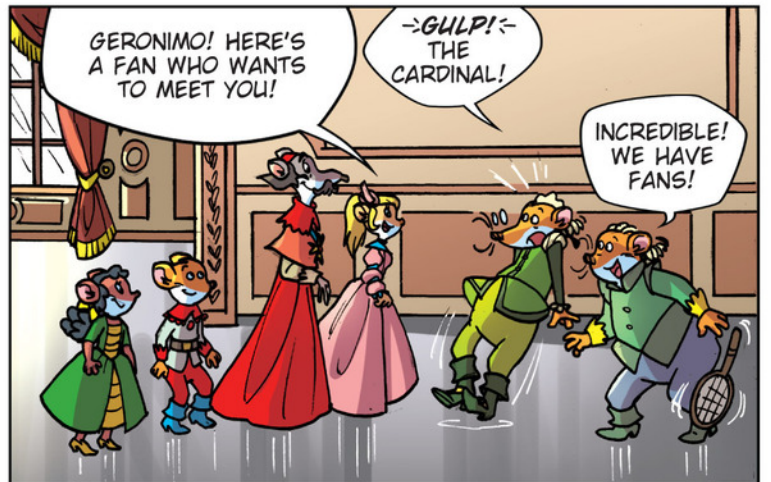
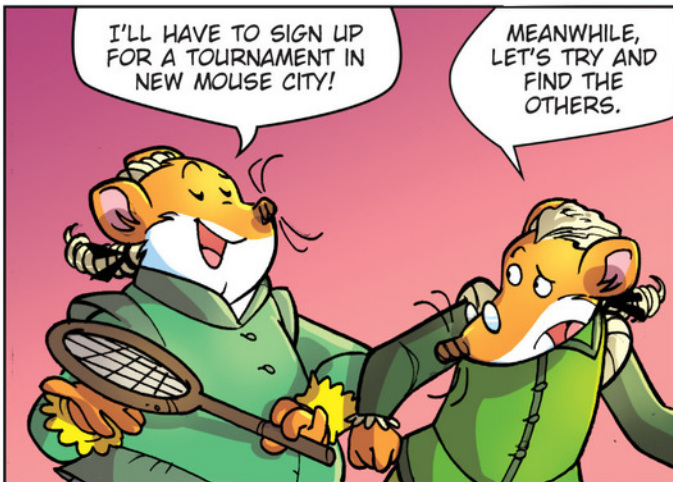


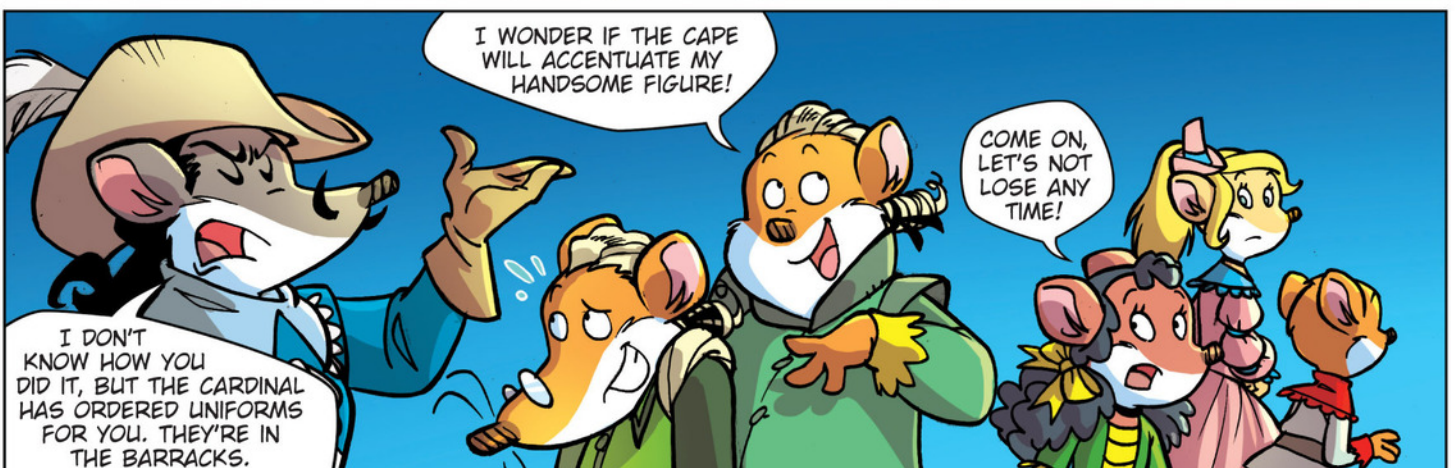
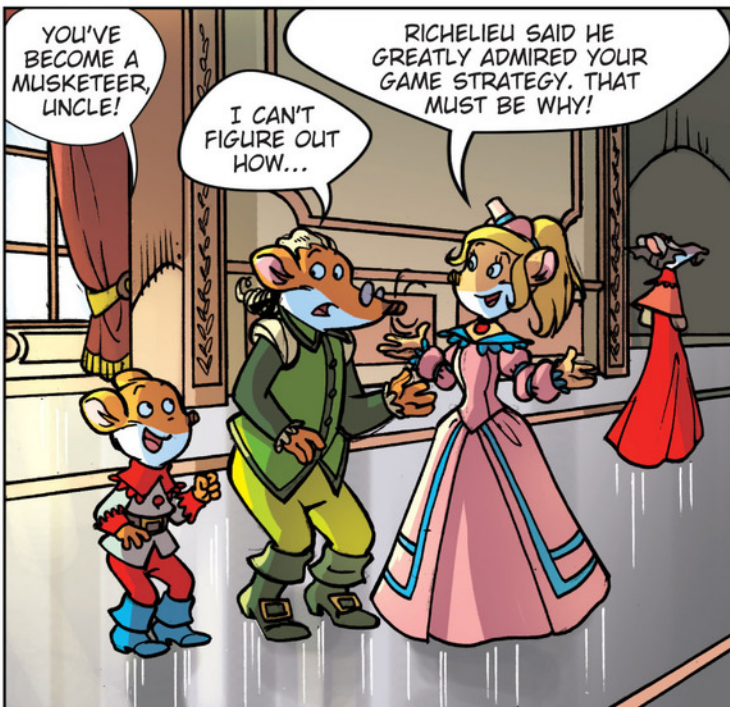


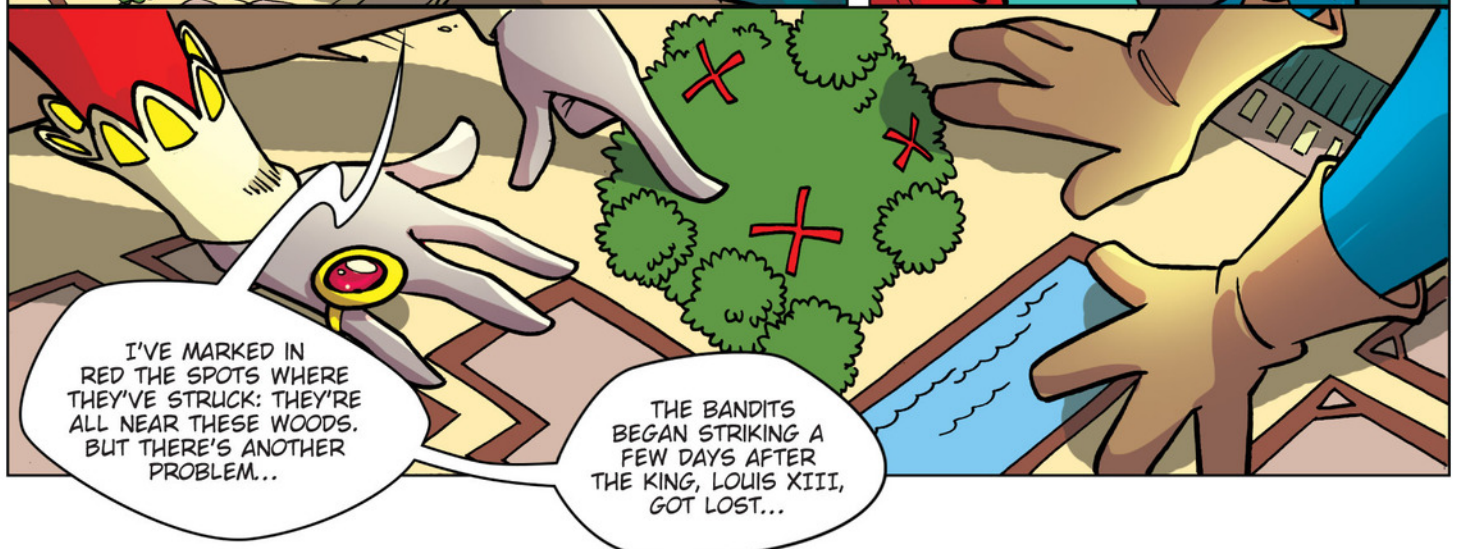
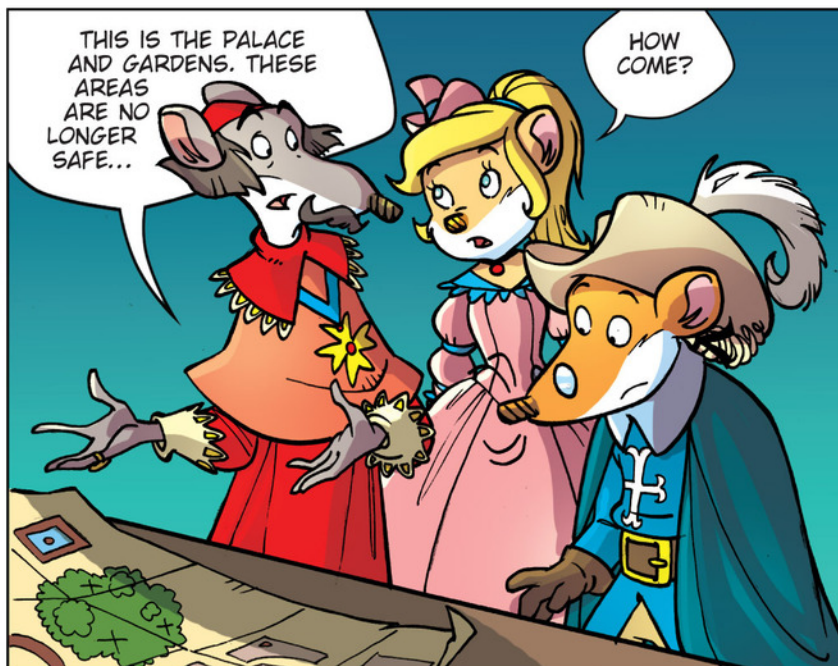


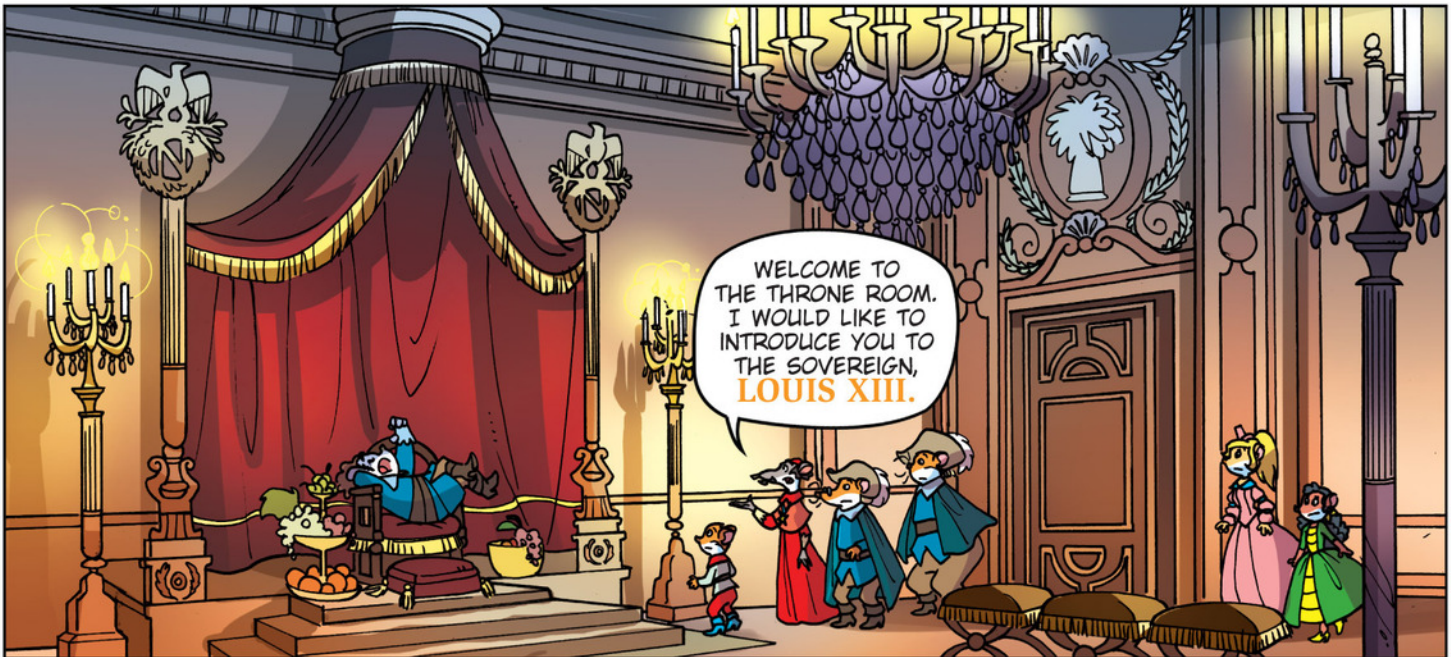
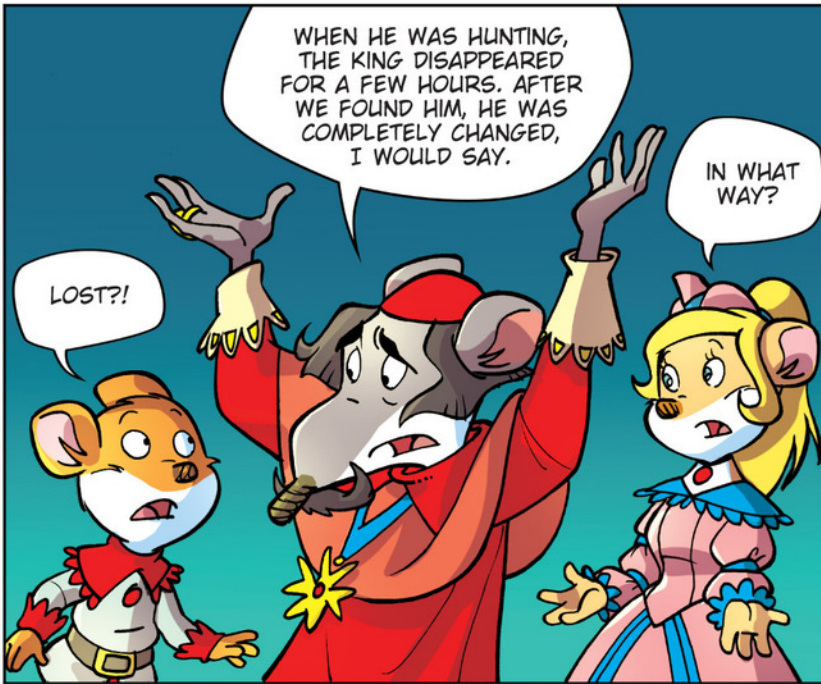




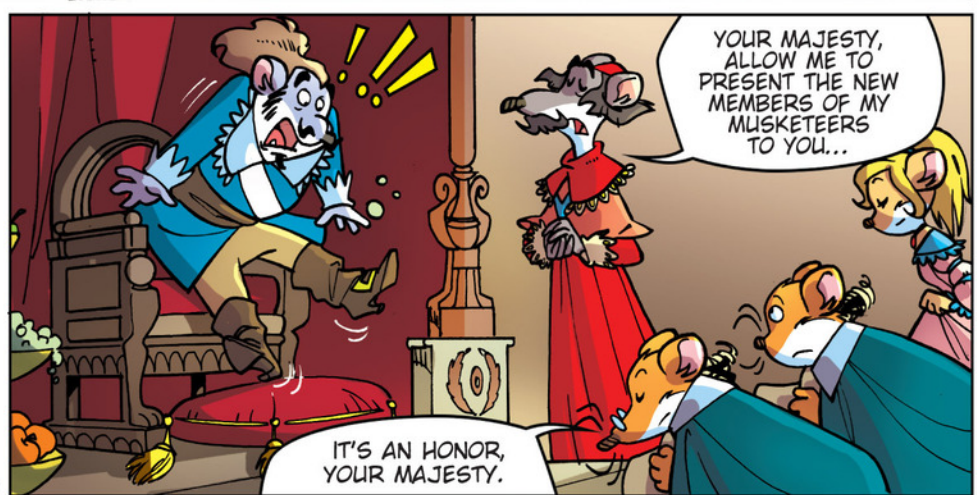


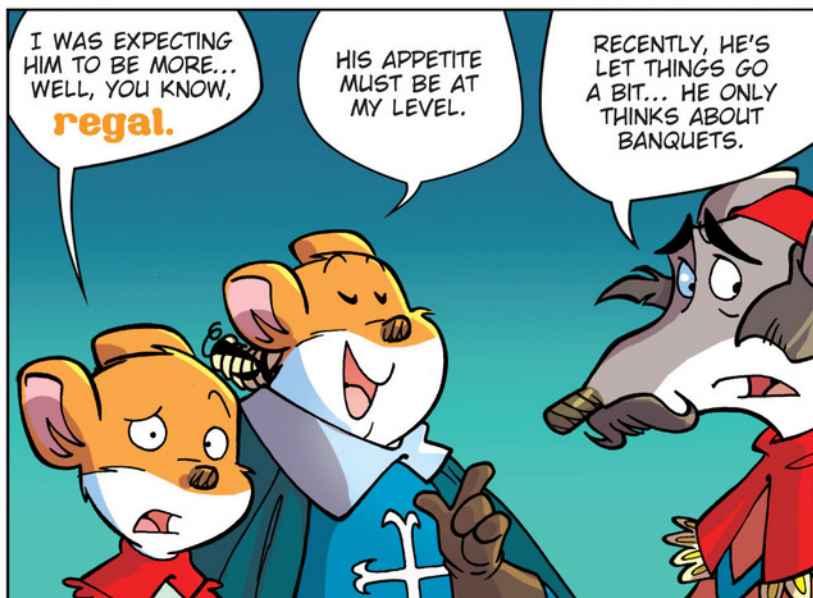
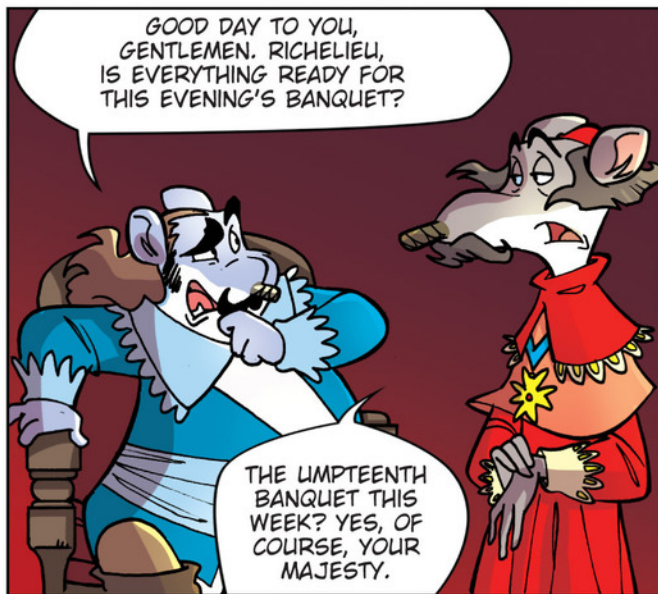


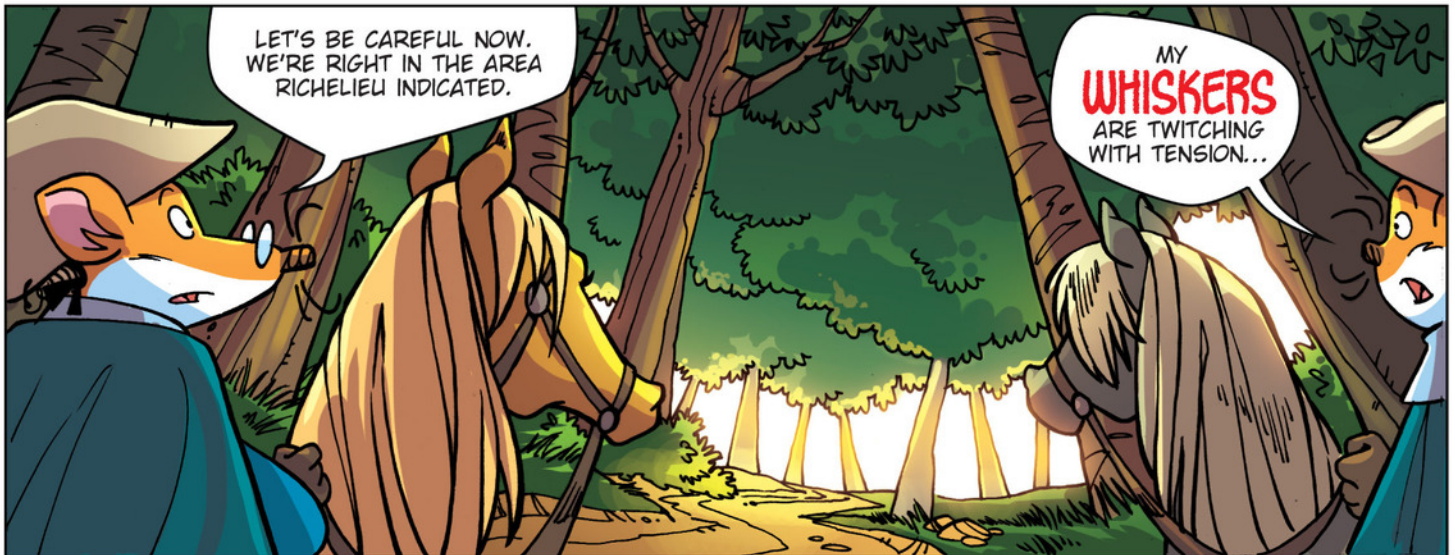


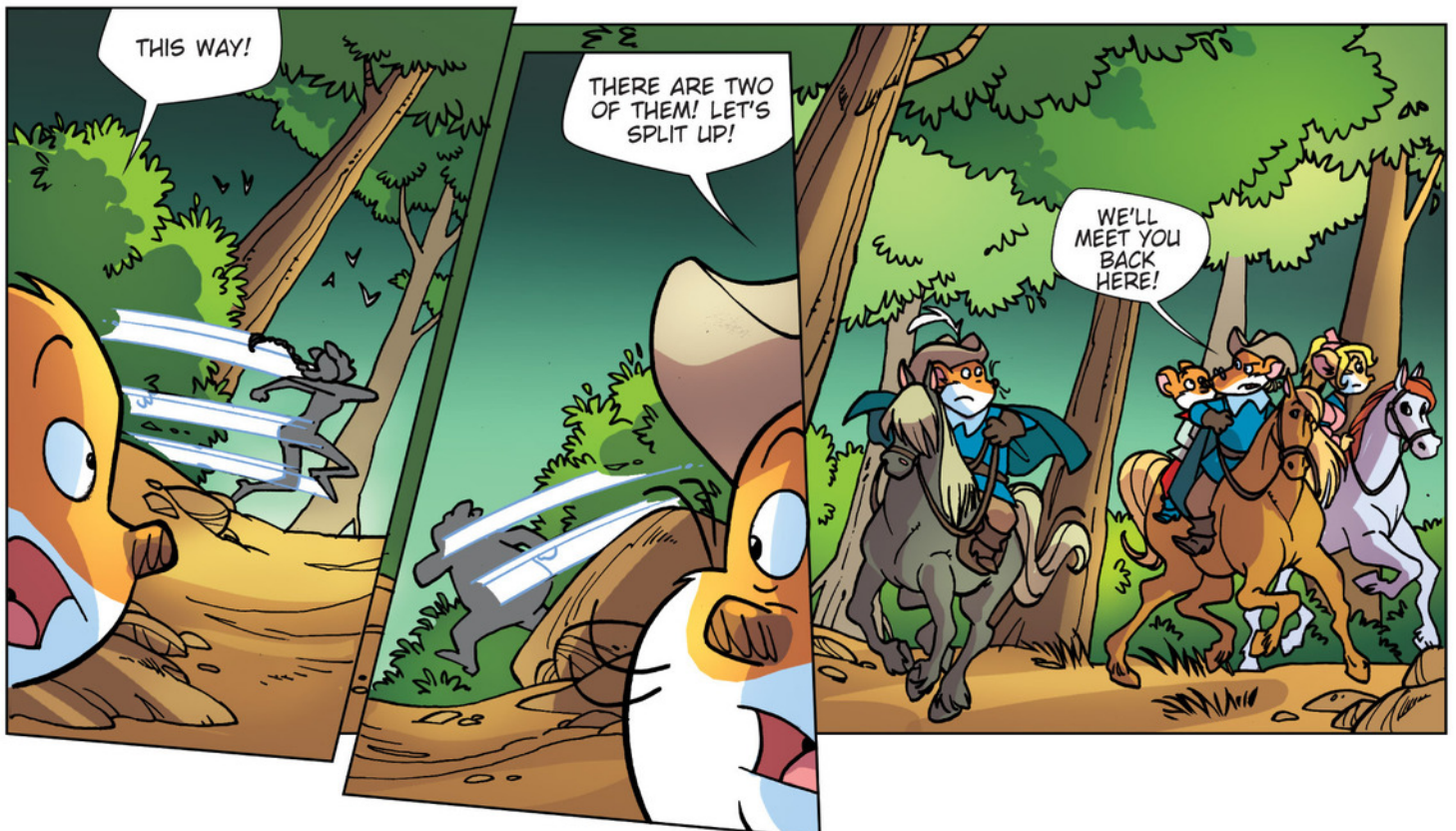


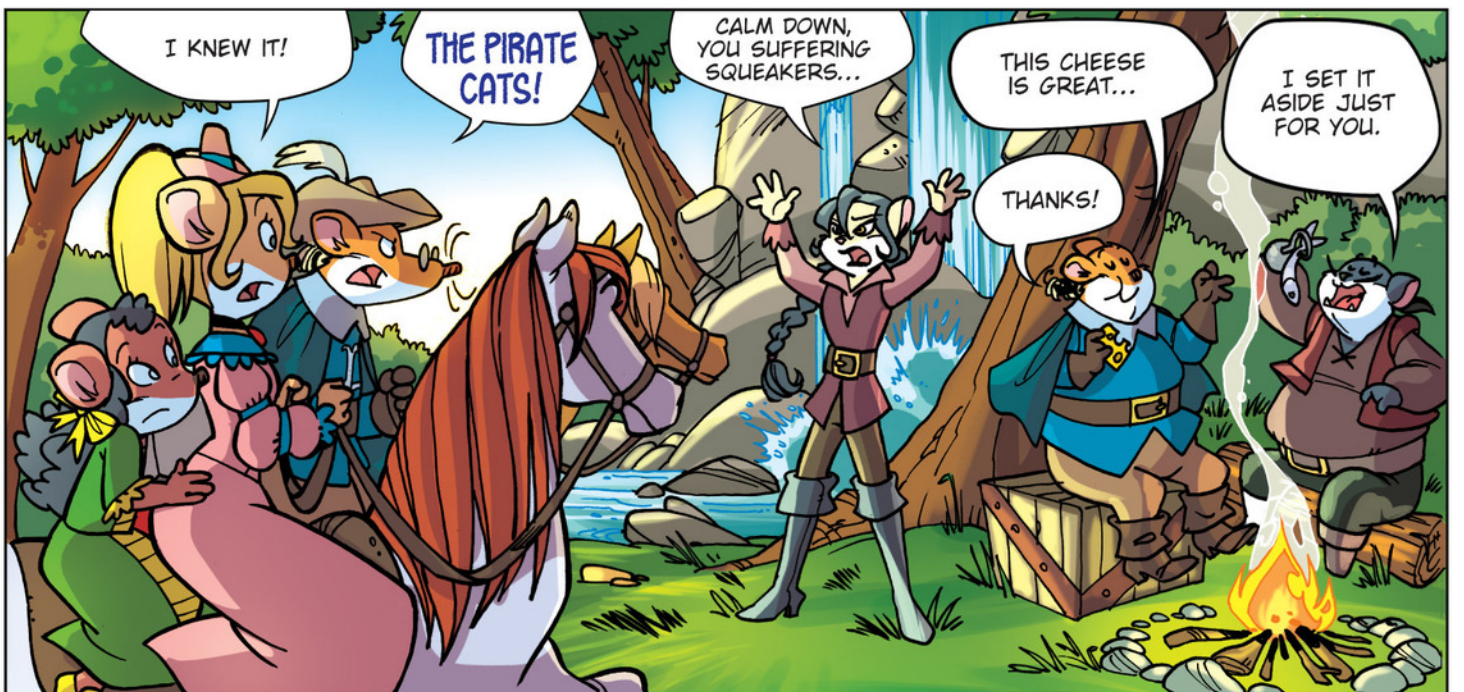
LOUIS XIII, KNOWN AS THE JUST, RULED OVER FRANCE FOR 33 YEARS. BORN AT FONTAINEBLEAU ITSELF, HE BECAME KING WHEN HE WAS ONLY NINE YEARS OLD. BUT HIS MOTHER, MARIE DE' MEDICI, ACTUALLY RULED THE KINGDOM UNTIL HER SON REACHED THE APPROPRIATE AGE. LOUIS XIII PIONEERED THE USE OF WIGS FOR MEN, A RETURN TO THE PRACTICE OF THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS.













"WE GOT HERE A WEEK AGO TO CELEBRATE BONZO'S BIRTHDAY. WE'D PROMISED HIM A 'WEEK AS KING.'



"WE'D DECIDED TO KIDNAP THE KING AND PUT BONZO ON THE THRONE, TO GIVE HIM A BIT OF FUN.



"THE PROBLEM WAS BONZO. AFTER WE PASSED HIM OFF AS THE KING, HE IMMEDIATELY DENOUNCED US TO THE MUSKETEERS...



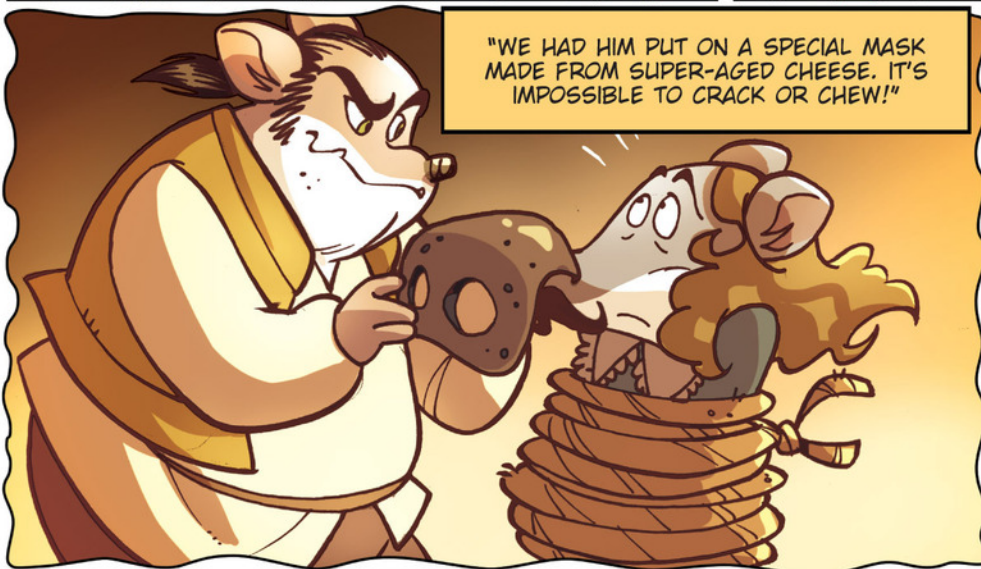
"AND THAT'S WHY WE'RE TRAPPED IN THE PAST, WITH NO POSSIBILITY OF GETTING AWAY."

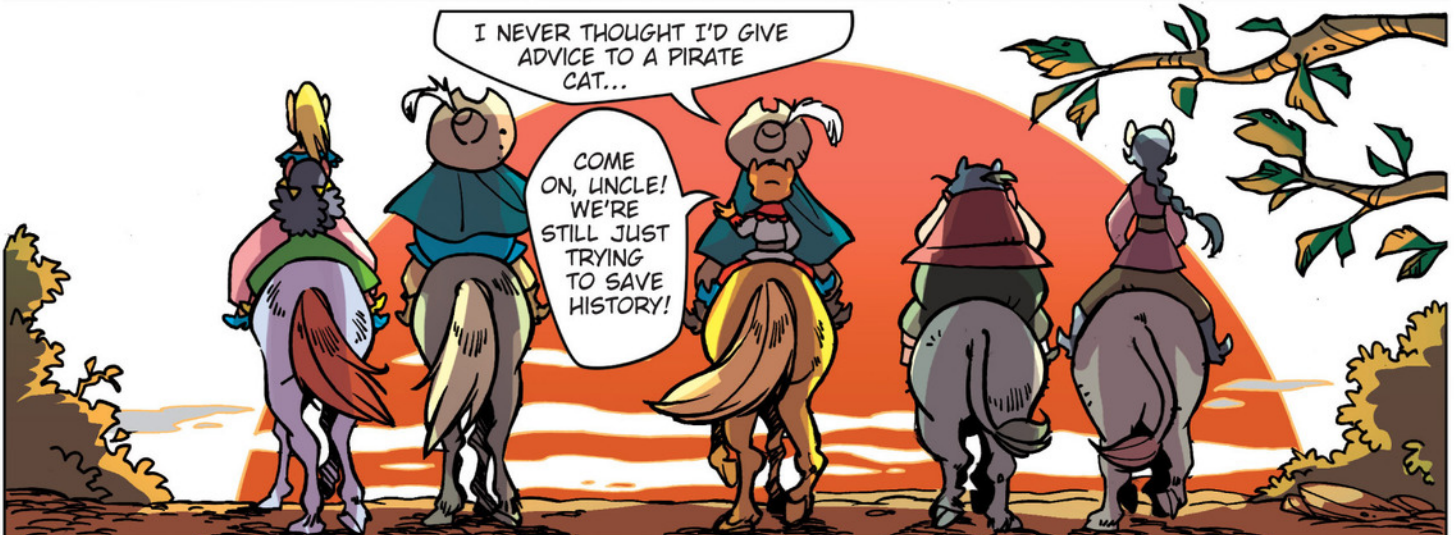
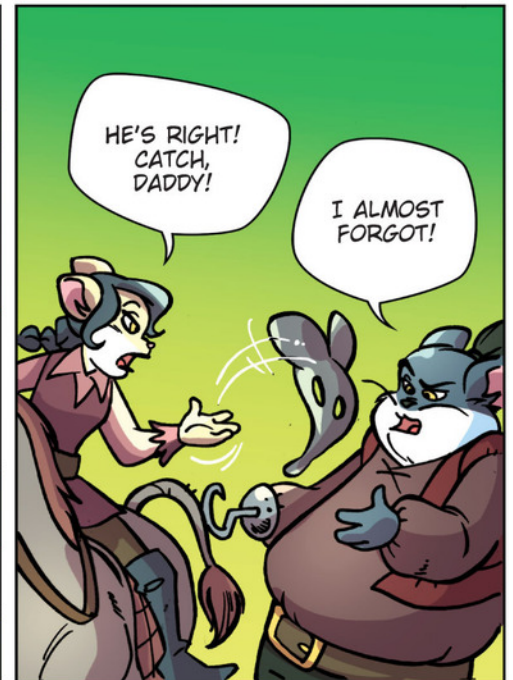


WHY CAN'T YOU JUST RETURN TO THE PRESENT? IT WOULD BE THE EASIEST SOLUTION.





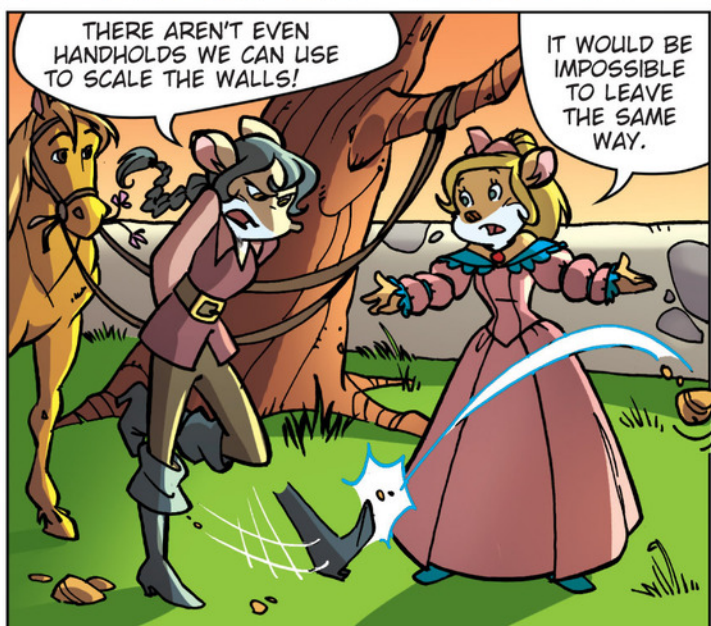




AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF TRAVEL, WE FINALLY REACHED PARIS AND THE **BASTILLE!**

THE BASTILLE WAS ORIGINALLY A FORTRESS BUILT BY CHARLES V OF FRANCE IN THE LATE 14TH CENTURY. IT WAS A TALL BUILDING WITH EIGHT TOWERS AND A MOAT OVER 80 FEET WIDE. IN THE 17TH CENTURY, IT BECAME A STATE PRISON FOR FAMOUS FIGURES. DURING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION, IT WAS RAZED TO THE GROUND AND ITS STONES SOLD AS SOUVENIRS.









GO THROUGH THE DOOR AND FOLLOW THE PASSAGEWAY. WE'RE HOLDING THE LATEST PRISONERS THERE.



I'VE HEARD YOU HAVE A PRISONER WITH A... SPECIAL MASK. ANY WAY TO SEE HIM?

THE PERSONAL PRISONER OF THE KING? WE'VE NEVER SEEN HIS FACE. HE'S AT THE END OF THE CORRIDOR. BUT I'M WARNING YOU...

WHAT?



THE PRISONER'S LOST HIS MIND. HE SAYS HE'S KING LOUIS XIII!

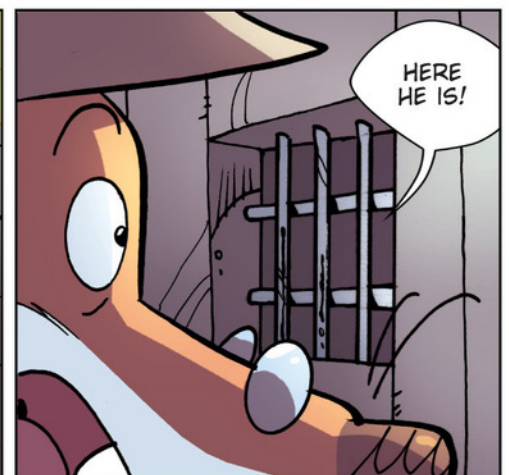
WELL, LET'S NOT WASTE TIME.



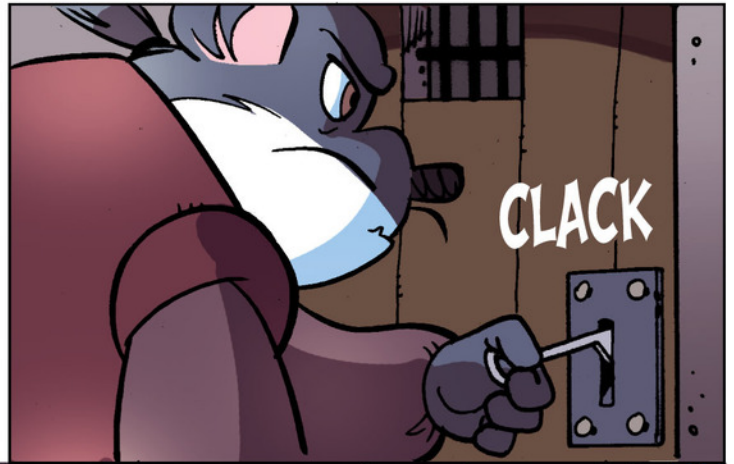
HURRY!

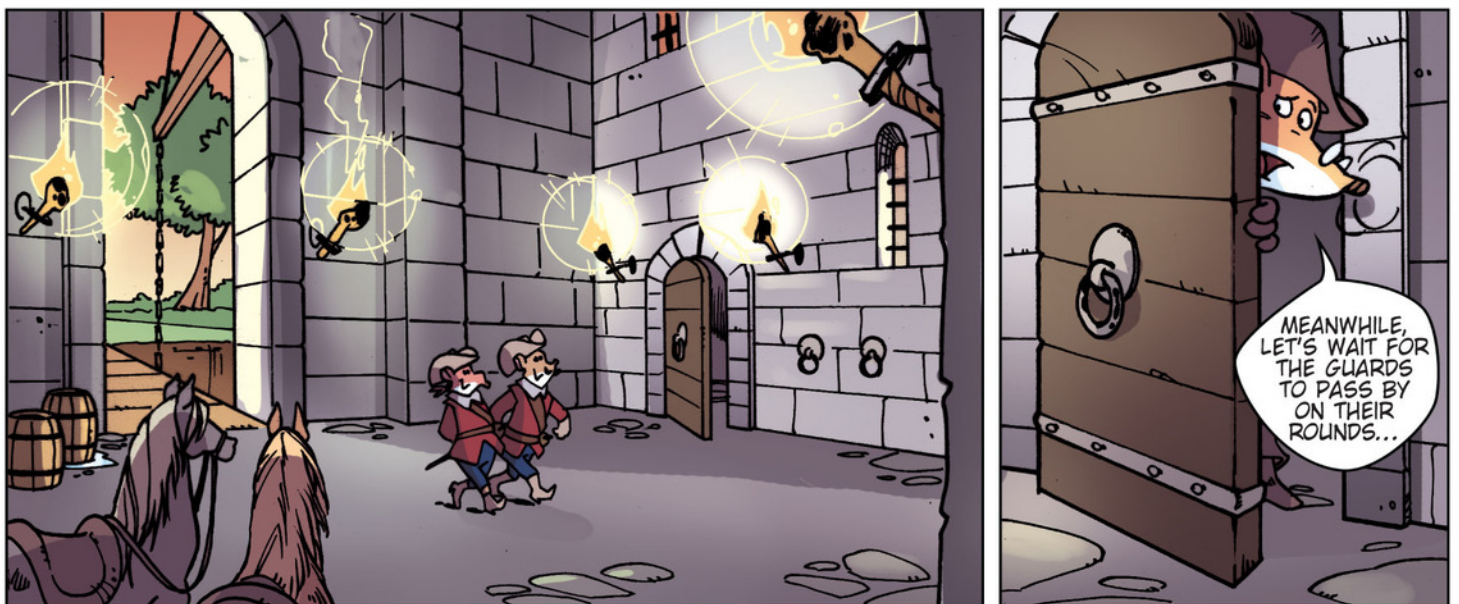
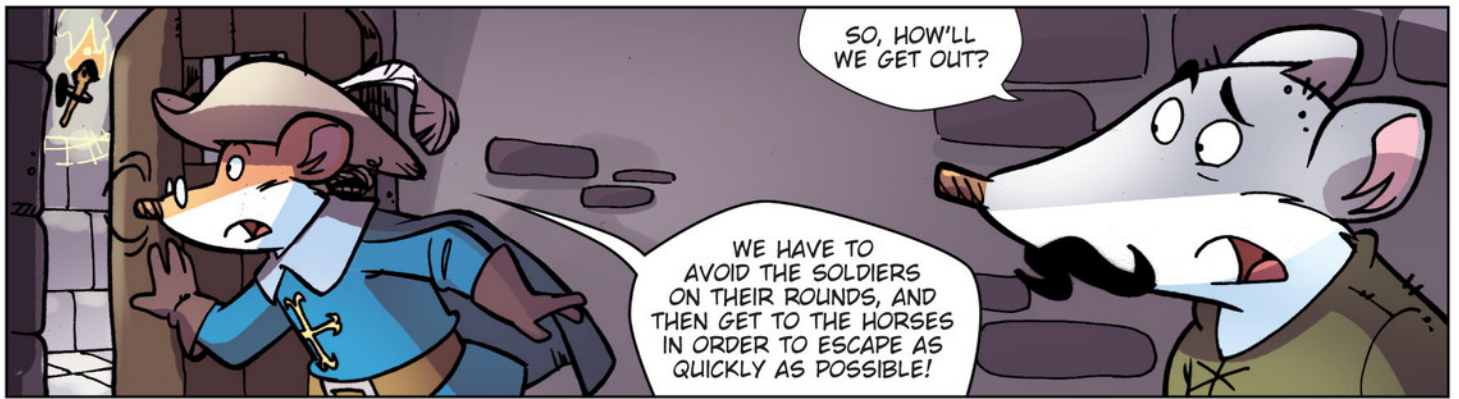


HE'S GOT TO BE IN ONE OF THESE!

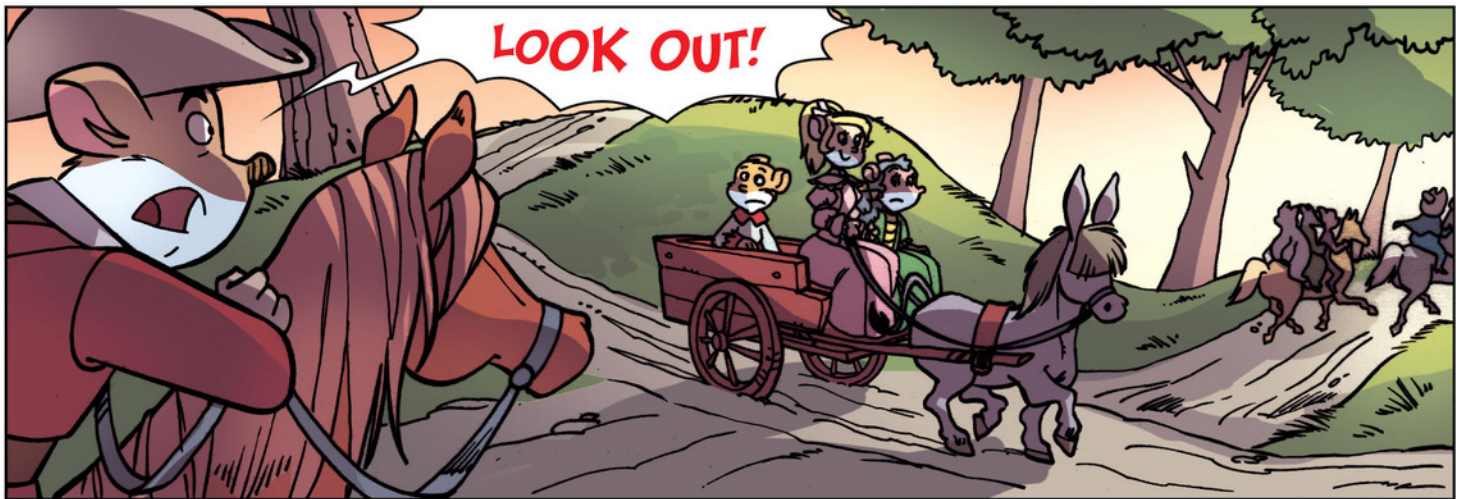


HERE HE IS!

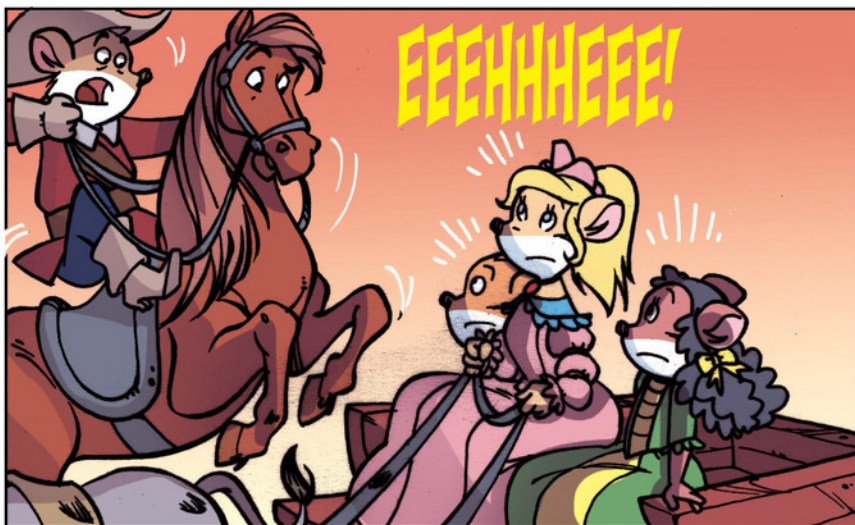








LOOK OUT!



EEEEHHEEE!



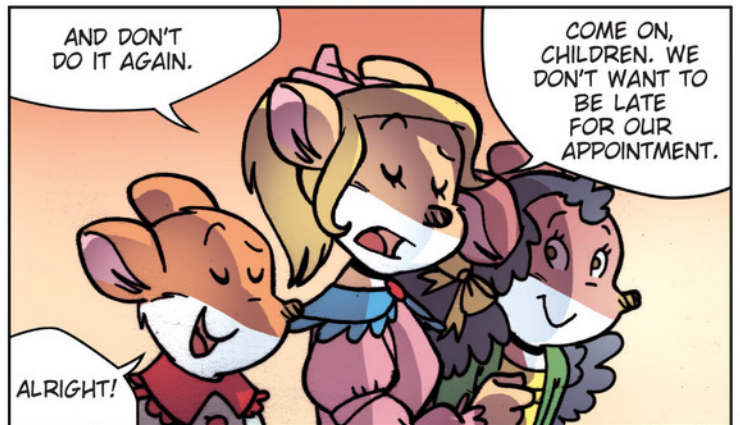
IS IT NECESSARY FOR YOU TO RACE ALONG THESE NARROW LANES?

BUT, MILADY, WE'RE CHASING SOME FUGITIVES AND...

AND THAT'S WHY IT'S APPROPRIATE TO RUN OVER GOOD, HONEST MICE?



NO, OF COURSE NOT, MILADY. PLEASE FORGIVE US, MILADY.



AND DON'T DO IT AGAIN.

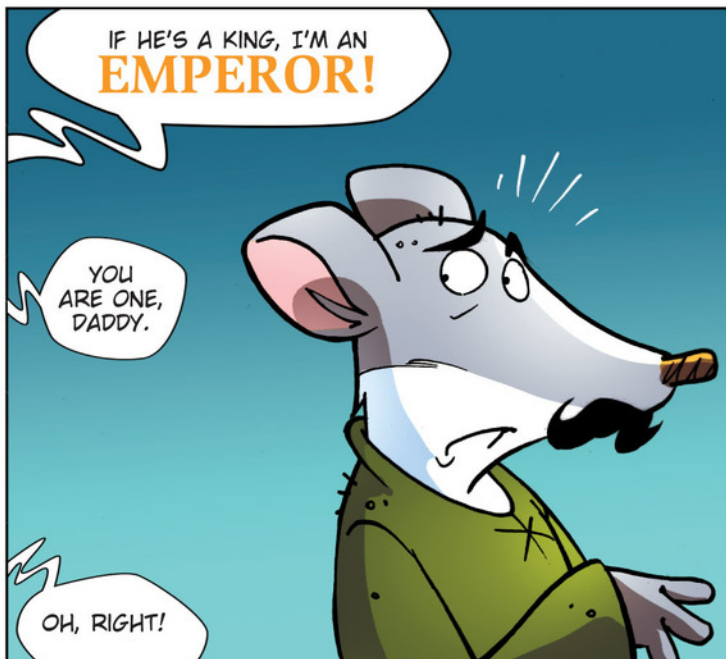
COME ON, CHILDREN. WE DON'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR OUR APPOINTMENT.

ALRIGHT!

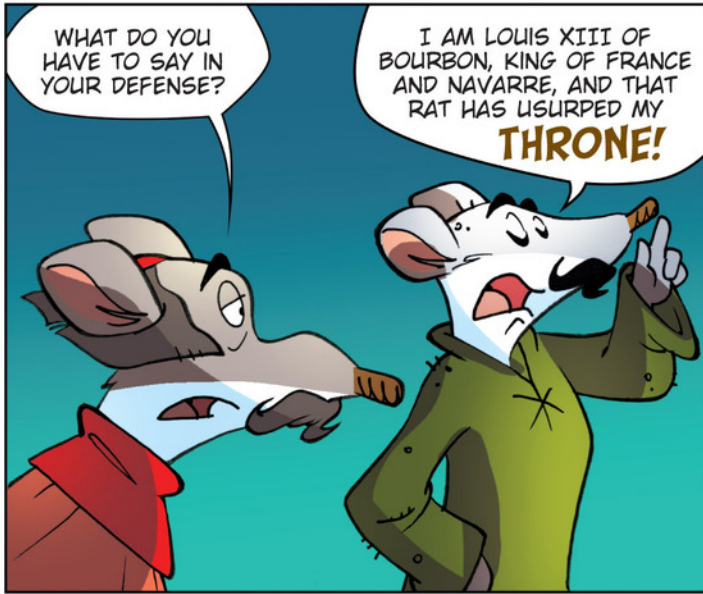


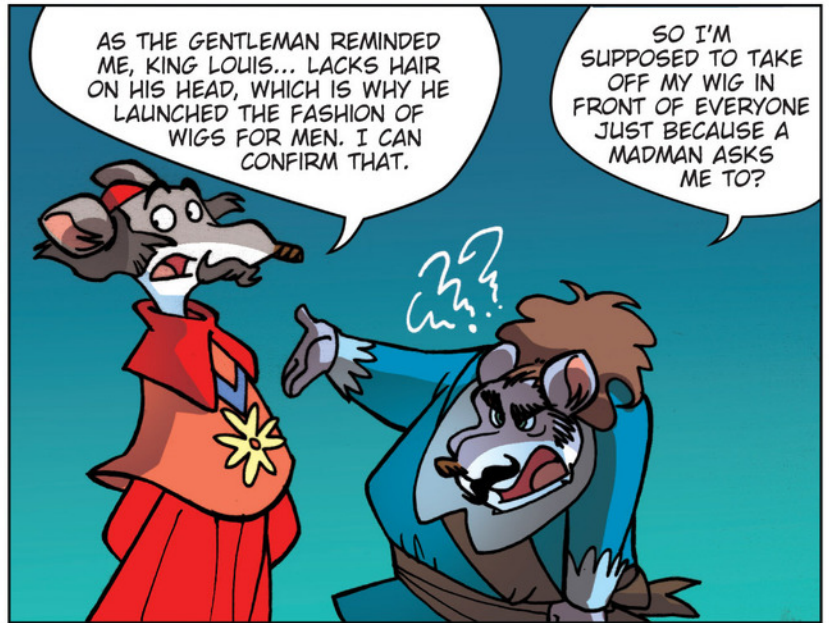
I KNEW PETUNIA WOULDN'T LET US DOWN!

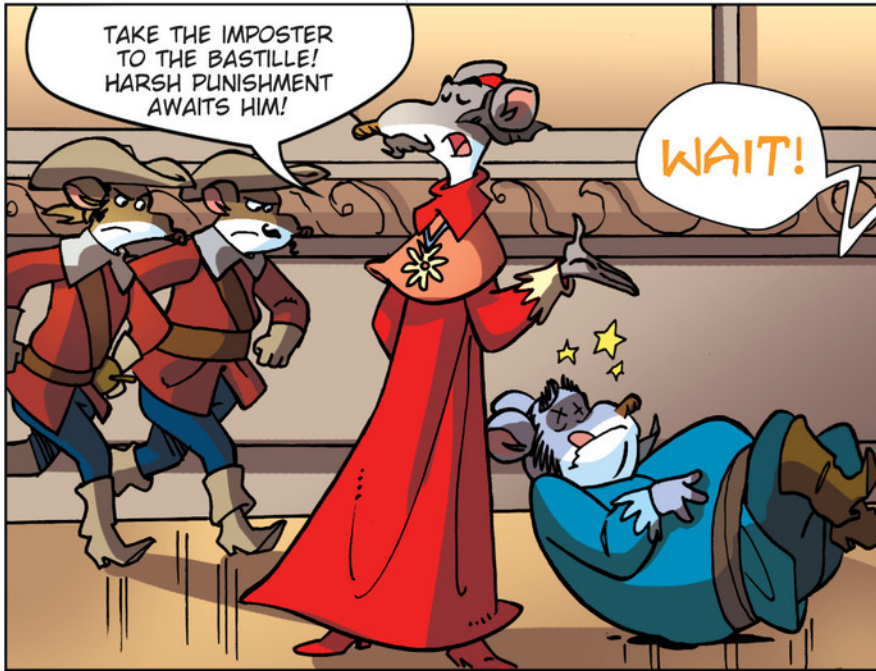
LET'S GET BACK TO FONTAINEBLEAU. THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE.











A LITTLE LATER...

OH, I DON'T KNOW, BUT SOMETHING WILL COME TO MIND...

NOW, LET'S GO!

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO PUNISH HIM?

WE'LL MAKE HIM WISH HE WERE IN THE BASTILLE!

DADDY, AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING?

HMM, YES...

THANK YOU, GERONIMO...

IT WAS A PLEASURE, THIS TIME.

AND MAYBE, NEXT TIME, WE'LL HAVE A PICNIC TOGETHER. CHASING YOU IS **EXHAUSTING!**

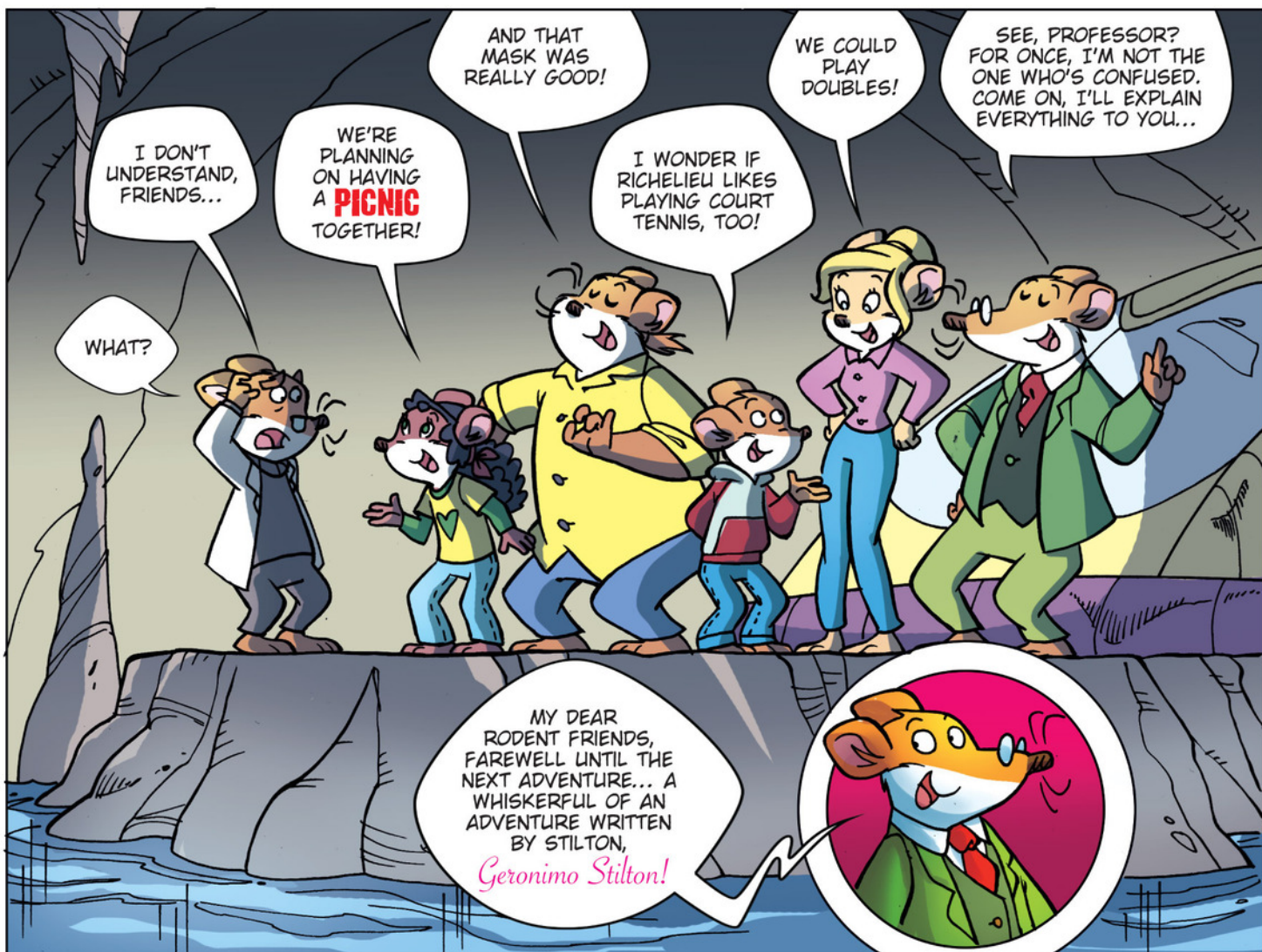
DON'T BET ON IT...

FOR ONCE, WE'RE NOT HURLING INSULTS AT THEM. HOW STRANGE!

YES, BUT WE BETTER NOT GET OUT OF PRACTICE.

YOU HELPED US, STILTON, BUT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF US!

THEY'LL NEVER CHANGE...



Watch Out For PAPERCUTZ™



Welcome to the French-flavored, fifteenth GERONIMO STILTON graphic novel from Papercutz, those fencing-class failures dedicated to publishing great graphic novels for all ages. I'm Salicrup, *Jim Salicrup*, the Editor-in-Chief and honorary Mouseketeer (I even appeared on The New Mickey Mouse Club TV series!). I'm here to provide a little background to further your enjoyment of GERONIMO STILTON.

If you're a fan of classic adventure fiction, then you probably enjoyed the various references to *The Three Musketeers* throughout this Geronimo Stilton graphic novel. But whether you've read the original novel by Alexandre Dumas or not, we're sure you'll enjoy the adaptation of "The Three Musketeers," written by Jean David Morvan and Michel Dufranne, and illustrated by Rubén, that we published in CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED DELUXE #6. And if you're not familiar with CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED, well...

As William B. Jones Jr. wrote in CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED #1 "Great Expectations," "CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED was the brainchild of Albert Lewis Kanter, a visionary publisher, who deserves to be ranked among the great teachers of the 20th century. From 1941 to 1971, he introduced young readers to the realms of literature, history, folklore, mythology, and science in such comicbook juvenile series as CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED, CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED JUNIOR, CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED SPECIAL SERIES, and THE WORLD AROUND US."



Photo of Albert Kanter courtesy of Hal Kanter.

When comicbooks, filled with the adventures of larger-than-life super-heroes, were taking America's youth by storm back in the early 40s "Kanter believed he could use the same medium to introduce young readers to the world of great literature." Or as Geronimo Stilton would say, great literATure! In October 1941, "with the backing of two business partners, Kanter launched CLASSICS COMICS [the title was later changed to CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED]." And guess what was the very first classic they adapted into comics form? That's right! *The Three Musketeers*! To compete with the likes of Superman and Captain America, Kanter brought the great literary heroes to comicbook life.

While that comics adaptation is still available digitally and in print, there aren't that many of CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED DELUXE #6 still in print. We're currently sold out, but if you check your favorite online bookseller, you may still be able to get a copy. Of course, you can always get the original novel, available at booksellers everywhere, as well as at your school or library. Fortunately, the GERONIMO STILTON graphic novel you have right now, gives you a taste of the adventure that awaits you in the Dumas classic!

Of course, you won't want to miss the next exciting Geronimo Stilton adventure either! On the following pages is a preview of GERONIMO STILTON #16 "Lights, Camera, Stilton!" Once again our favorite Editor of *The Rodent's Gazette* must save the future, by protecting the past!

See you in the future!

Jim

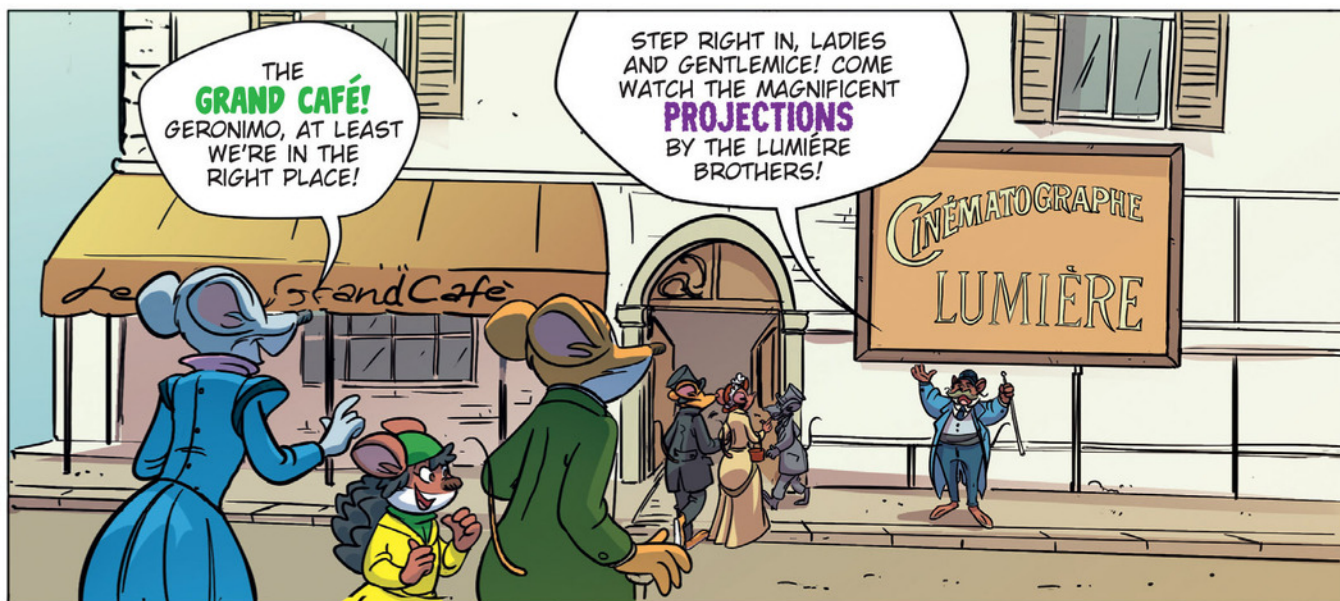
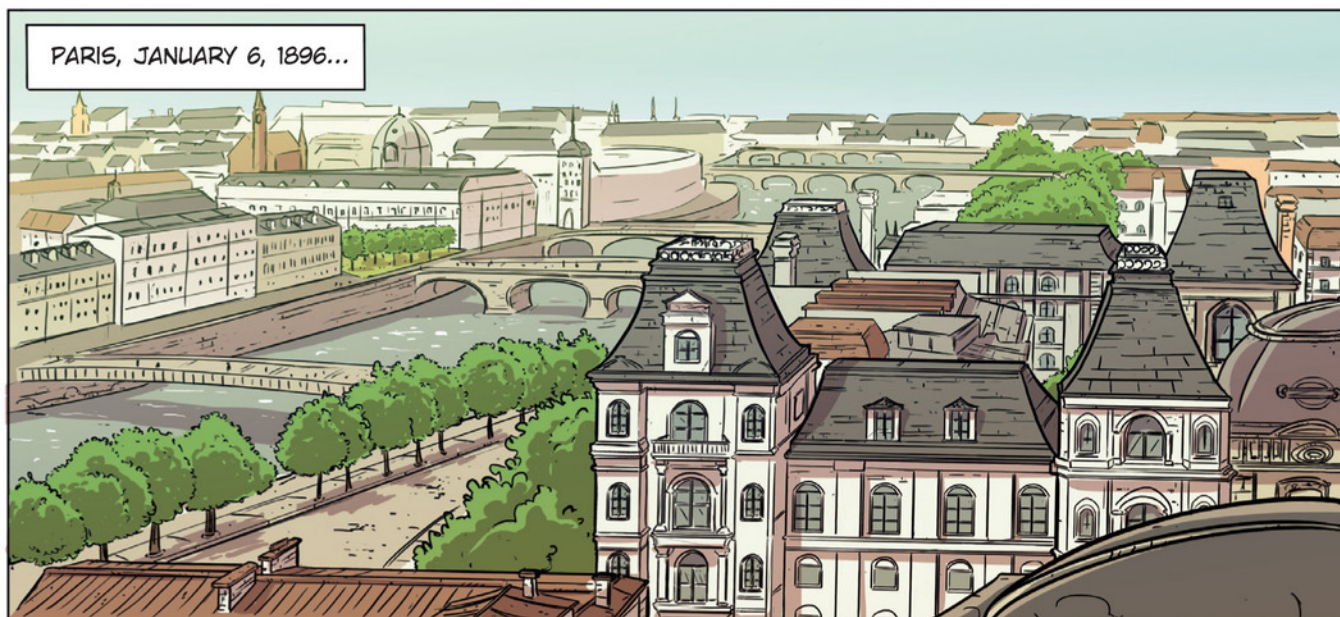


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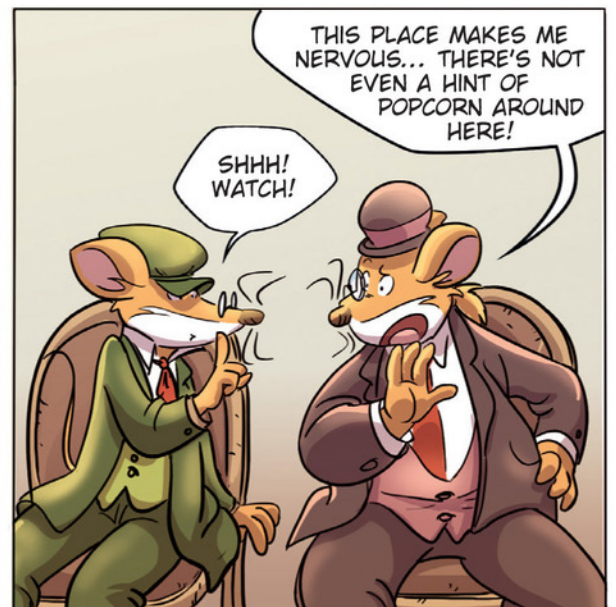
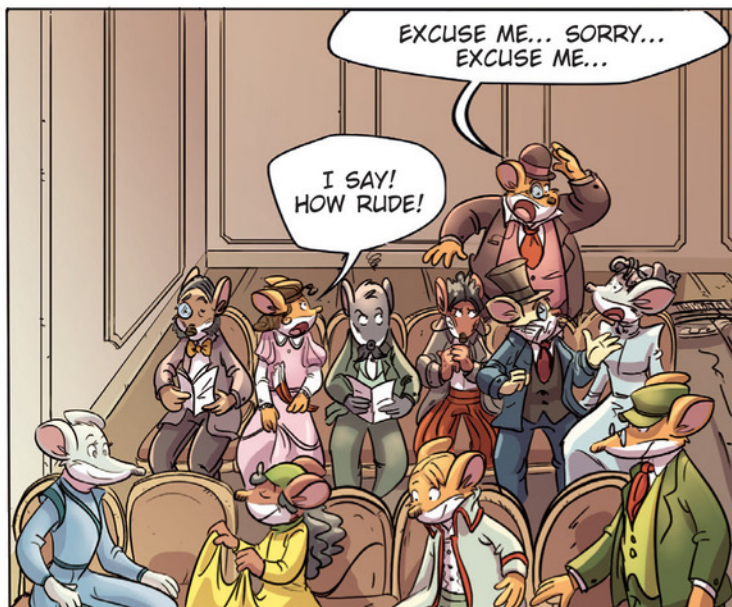
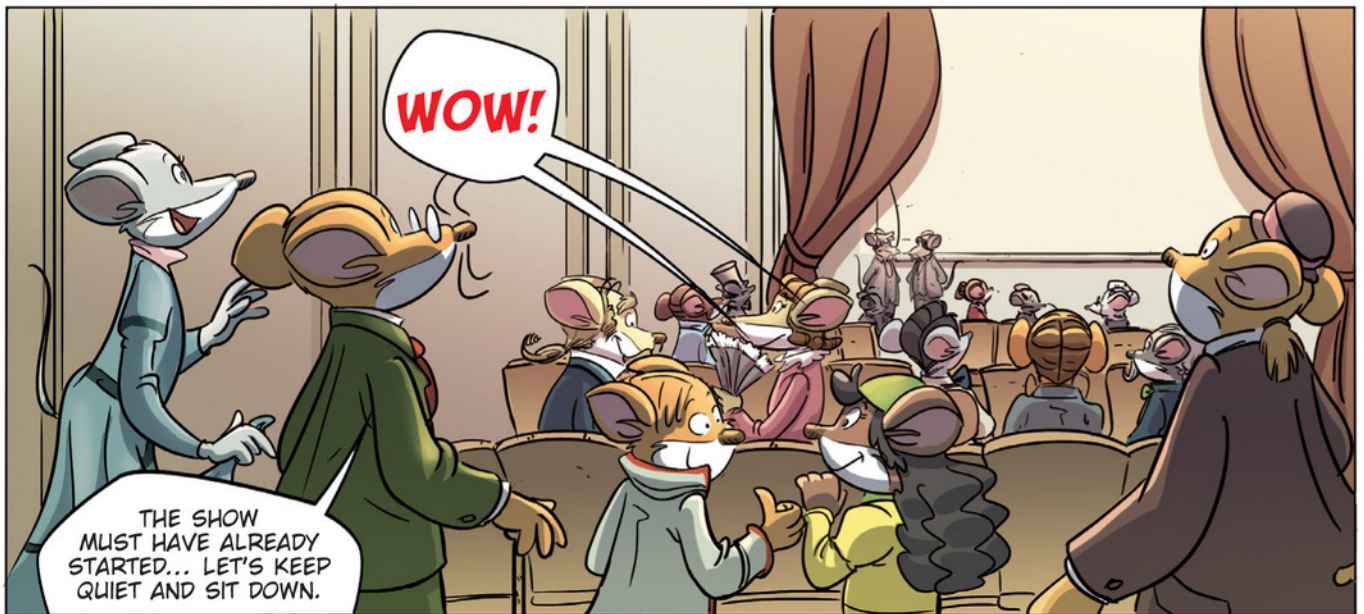
Special preview of GERONIMO STILTON #16 "Lights, Camera, Stilton!"

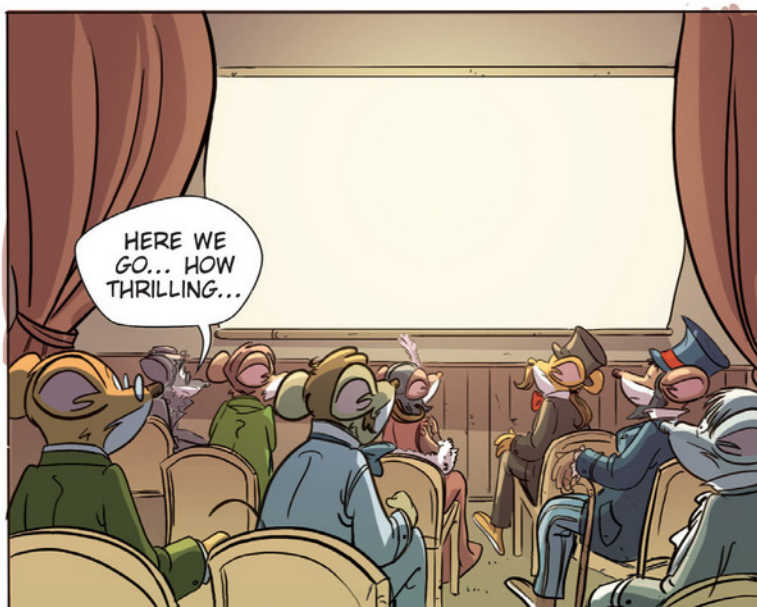
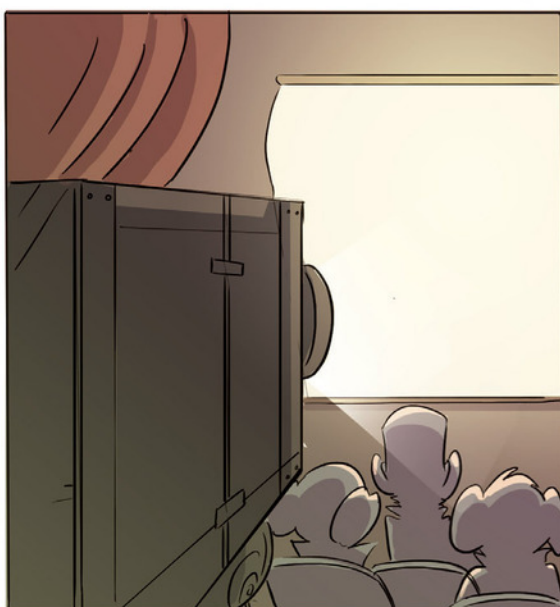


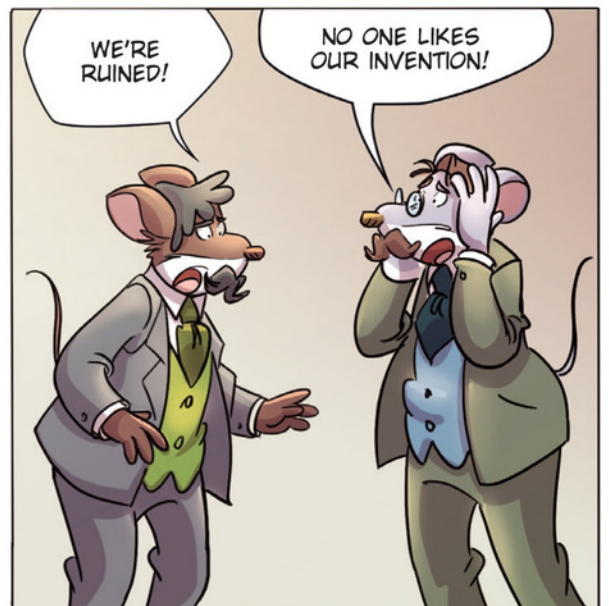
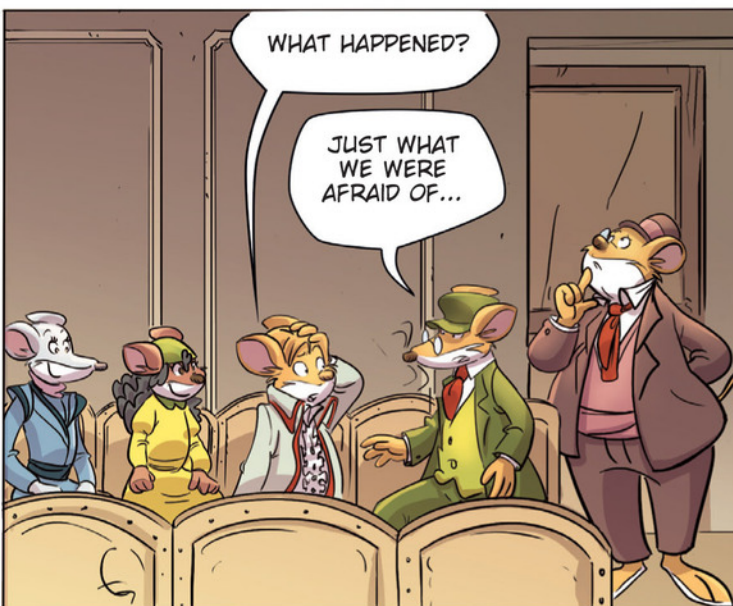
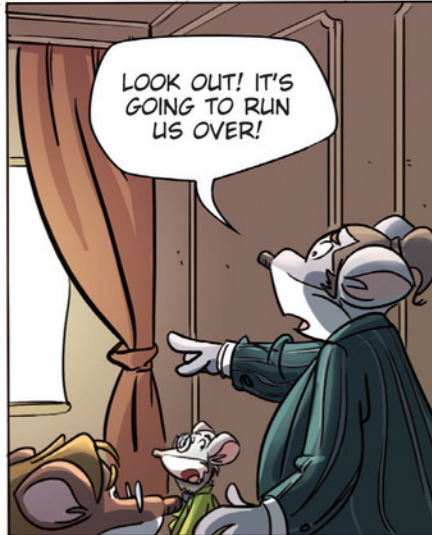
HMM... YOU'RE RIGHT, THE PIRATE CATS COULD BE HERE IF THEIR GOAL IS TO GET TO THE LUMIÈRES. WE'D BETTER GO SEE THE SHOW!

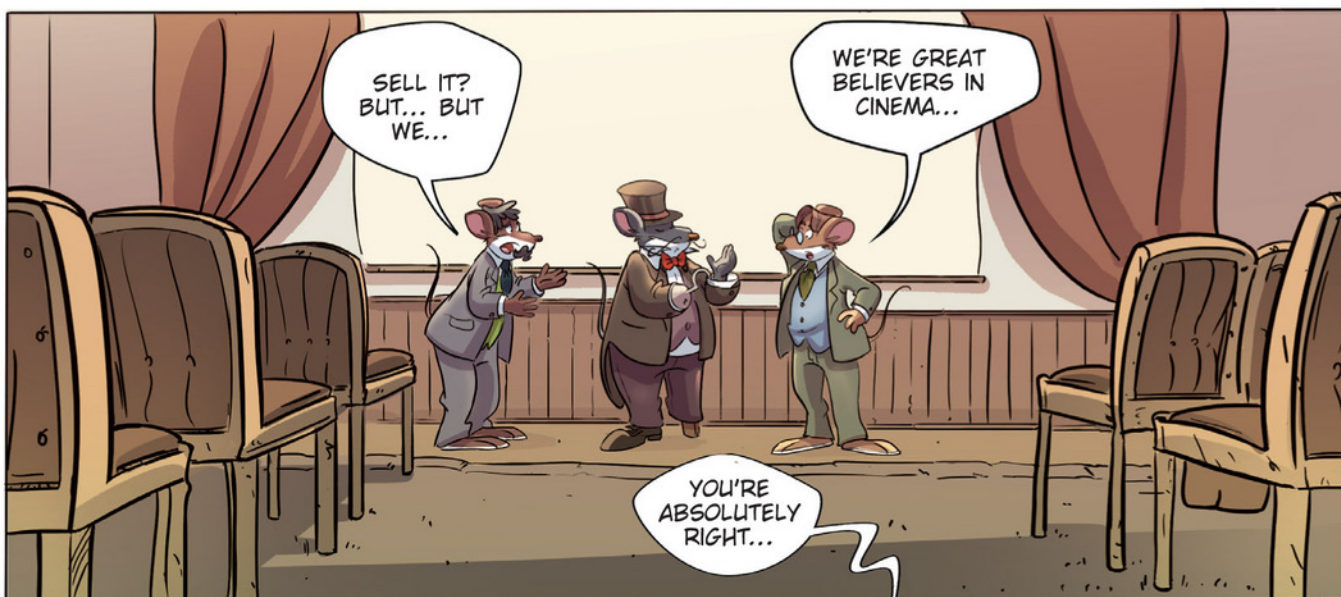
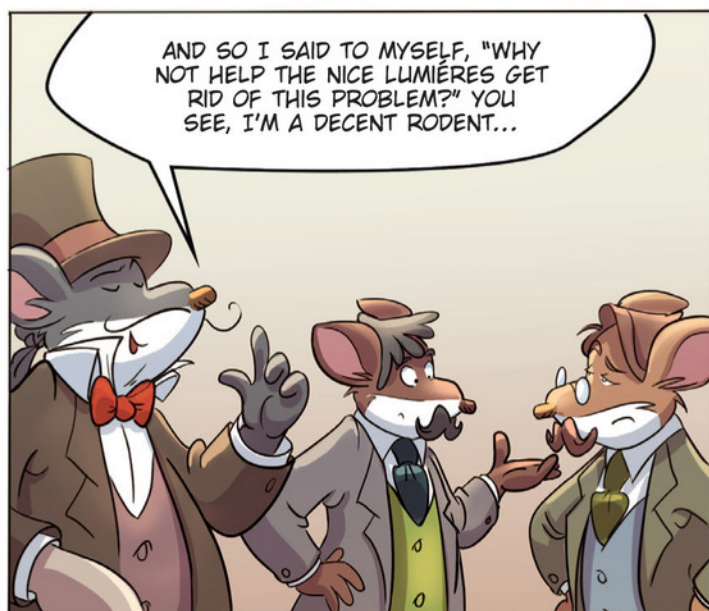
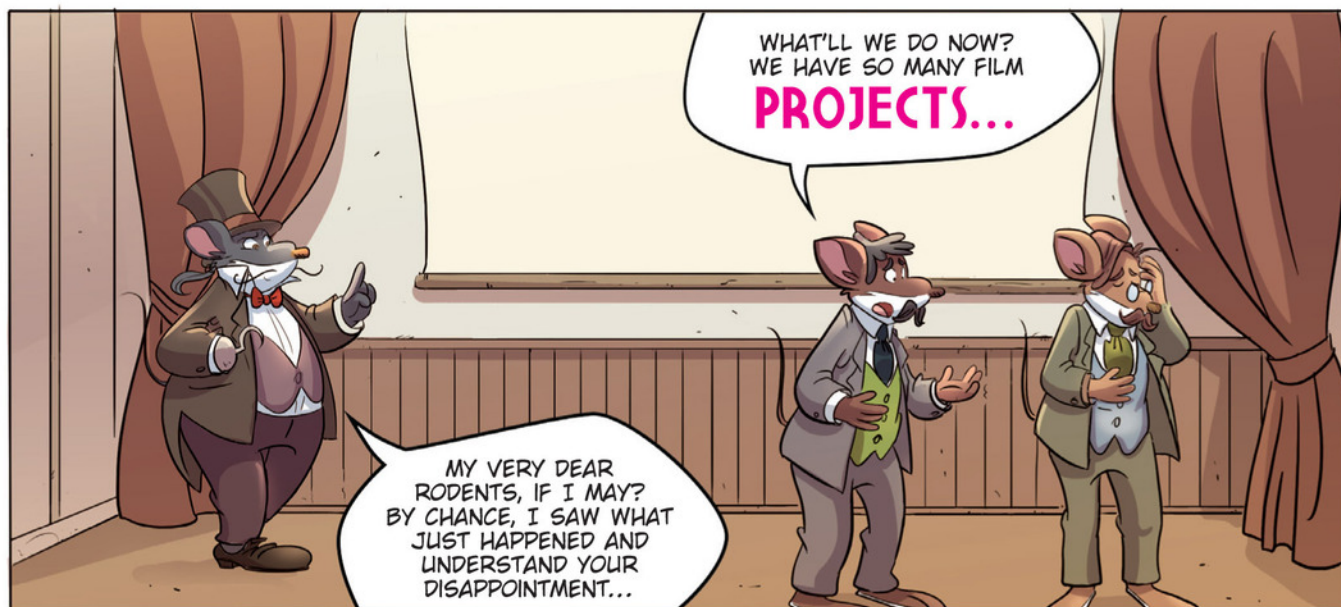


ON JANUARY 6, 1896, THE LUMIÈRE BROTHERS SHOWED THEIR SHORT FILM *ARRIVAL OF A TRAIN AT LA CIOTAT* FOR THE FIRST TIME. IT IS ONE OF THEIR MOST FAMOUS FILMS, AND IT WAS VERY INNOVATIVE FROM A TECHNICAL STANDPOINT. CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, THIS WAS NOT THEIR FIRST PUBLIC PROJECTION, WHICH INSTEAD TOOK PLACE ON DECEMBER 28, 1895.



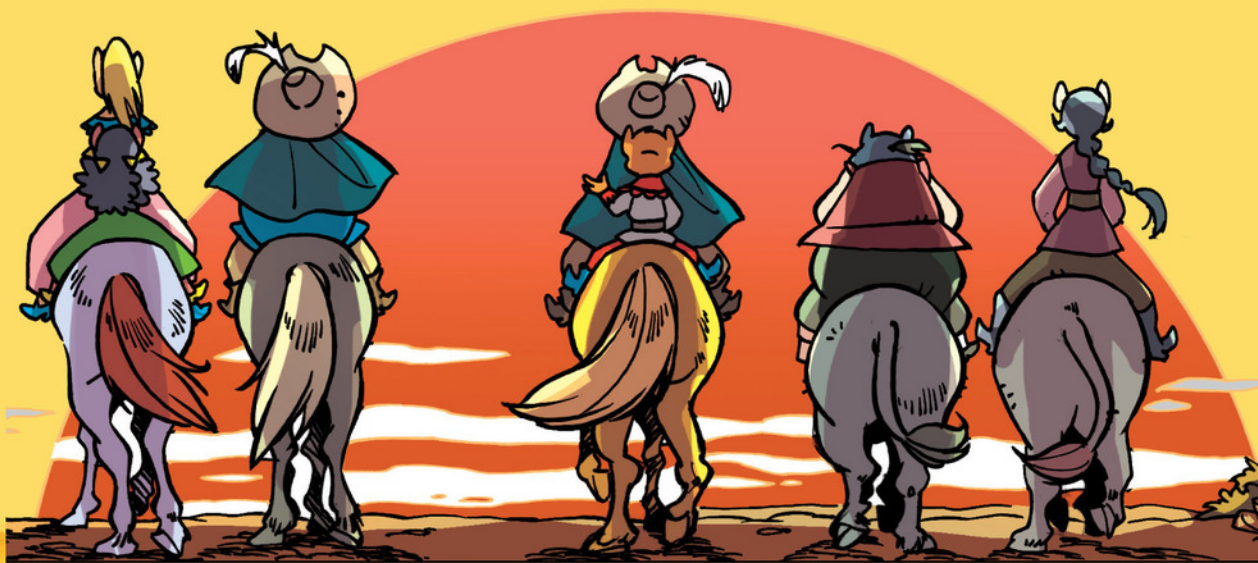






Don't miss GERONIMO STILTON #16 "Lights, Camera, Stilton!"

THE GERONIMO STILTON STORY YOU NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE!



Geronimo and Friends Join Forces with Their Foes-- The Pirate Cats!

GERONIMO STILTON IS THE EDITOR OF THE RODENT'S GAZETTE, THE MOST FAMOUS PAPER ON MOUSE ISLAND. IN HIS FREE TIME HE LOVES TO TELL FUN, HAPPY STORIES. IN THIS ADVENTURE, GERONIMO HAS TO FACE HIS WORST ENEMIES, THE PIRATE CATS, WHO HAVE DISCOVERED A WAY TO TRAVEL BACK IN TIME AND CHANGE HISTORY...

FONTAINEBLEAU, FRANCE, 1624. LOUIS XIII, KING OF FRANCE, JUST HASN'T BEEN HIMSELF LATELY. BANDITS ARE ON THE LOOSE OUTSIDE THE PALACE WALLS, BUT ALL THE KING WANTS TO DO IS PLAN HIS NEXT DINNER PARTY. GERONIMO SMELLS A RAT! BUT IF HE WANTS TO UNSEAT THIS IMPOSTER, HE WILL HAVE TO JOIN THE RANKS OF THE MUSKETEERS AND MAKE A MOST UNUSUAL ALLIANCE WITH THE PIRATE CATS THEMSELVES!

Geronimo Stilton Saving the future, by protecting the past!



"Geronimo fans will eat this up quicker than a wheel of cheddar." –Washington Times

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–Shelf-Employed*

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